

# FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 7- Issue # 37/38 - July 2003

## Dear FRS-Holland Friends!

Welcome, we are in the middle of a very hot Summer and in front of you a mega edition of the FRS Newsletter. I must admit I don't feel very comfortable knowing this edition is the first one being published in 2003. According to our normal schedule already been used since the start of the Newsletter, March should see the first edition. Several personal circumstances prevented us from doing so. We'd like to apologize for that. I know it's not a rule that we are so much later than planned. I remember two or three years ago, we also produced a combined March/ June edition, that was the first time and this is the second. However, you get what we've promised and to make up a bit this time even more. Instead of 2 x 6 pages there are 14 pages mainly covering the past few months. We felt it was of no use to cover for instance January or February (apart from a few small items). Enough stuff to keep you busy in a lazy chair with a glass of wine or beer. Cheers! Hopefully this edition convinces you that the FRS Newsletter is still around, there are not that many written radio publications covering SW Free Radio and News from around the World. No doubt we will continue in future, the next edition will be published late September/ early October.

With the Dutch authorities allocating several FM & AM frequency packages to a number of commercial radio stations, an end came on a very long period of suspense and confusion. There are winners and losers. We have covered the full story in this edition, also a number of UK broadcasters are involved. Comparing the current Dutch radio situation with 10 years ago, it is obvious that the radio landscape has undergone a complete metamorphosis. Just look at the high number of commercial broadcasters and their variety of music formats. Radio 538, Radio 192, Radio 10 FM, Noordzee FM, Yorin FM, Sky Radio, Arrow Classic Rock and very soon the new Veronica. All stations have nation-wide coverage either via terrestrial freqs, cable networks or both. Add the 4 government-controlled radio stations and conclude that never ever there was so much offer and variety...



3s, Peter V.

## FRS BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES

A fivehour broadcast was planned February 23rd. Programmes were recorded including the debute show of our new presenter Frank Carson. Unfortunately the trm had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. And that was that. Following that disappointment, we haven't been on air with a regular broadcast. Don't think FRS-Holland would have been heard a lot: especially in the Spring/ Summer period, we are taking a long break. Some brief testing has been done, we are aiming at a re-start in September. Tests will take place on 48, 41 & 31 metres at different times/ days. This will eventually take place in the next few weeks and months. If we feel it's of extra use, we will let you know via E-mail. Remember we will use low power but so far we achieved very encouraging results with wirth outputs between 10-45W. With 5 and even 2W, we received amazing reports! New antennas which were constructed in 2002, seem to be working very well with minor losses. The FRSH spirit will be widely heard in the months to come propagating "A Balance between Music and Information joined to one format, the FRS concept tastes different, just a bit different."

**E-MAIL ADDRESS :<[frs.holland@hccnet.nl](mailto:frs.holland@hccnet.nl)>**  
**P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands**

## SW FREE RADIO SCENE

### General

In this Summer edition we cover the period January - late July 2003. It's obvious no X-Mas news has been included, we prefer concentrarting on the news from the March- July period (with a few exceptions..).

### Propagation

Summer is here and that means during daytime poor conditions on 48 & 41 metres. Activity on 41 metres has been very low lately. This is in contrast with reception possibilities during evenings when the 48 metre band is open and stations are often booming in, even when power is limited to 10 or 20 watts! Night time reception will be getting worse towards september when daytime reception will once again improve. On higher freqs daytime reception is very poor at present time. That will also change in a month or two.

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## ETHERFLITS

March 2003 the Dutch pirate radio world was completely knocked out by a press bulletin from the Dutch Telecom Agency. This government-controlled body is responsible for tracking down illegal radio stations (amongst other duties). It was announced that as from March 12th onwards the Telecom Agency (part of the Ministry of Trade and Industry) would be starting a project called *Etherflits*. The project aims at wiping out the great number of illegal stations within the Netherlands, however, in particular in the North-East part of the country. In addition the authorities are counteracting illegal FM broadcasts in a different way. Formerly they were emphasizing on preventing and remedying jamming. Now their main goal is specifically aimed at counteracting illegal broadcasts. Despite all the great efforts of the past, The North-East of the Netherlands is the region with the highest concentration of pirate radio stations. The Etherflits project's main goal is that all officers of the Telecom Agency are joining forces for a twelve month period trying to track down and punish every possible way of illegal broadcasting in the North East region. As said, formerly their actions were mainly linked with interference and jamming. Terrestrial freqs are monitored day and night. And when any illegal broadcast is monitored, the Agency will react fast and adequately. Penalties could amount to € 1100. Is a pirate repeatedly tracked down, then the penalty could be doubled. Kick off of the Etherflits project was March 12th.

March 2003: The Dutch pirates started their own action "Tegenflits" (Opposite Flash), a kind of anti Etherflits action. A joint website was set up to give vent to their anger. Supporters are asked to back the Tegenflits action against the authorities. Co-ordinator Marthijn de Rooij claims the pirates are needed to guarantee a diverse choice of terrestrial radio stations. In case the typical Dutch pirates disappear, people are deprived of the kind of music only played by those pirates. March 30th a demonstration was organized in De Hague, only few pirates participated. Perhaps some changed their mind in the end and didn't want to show their face.... Website: <[www.tegenflits.tk](http://www.tegenflits.tk)>.

April 2003 the Telecom Agency announced a dramatic decrease of illegal trms in the Northern-Eastern region. On their internetsite <[www.agentschap-telecom.nl](http://www.agentschap-telecom.nl)> updates are being published including figures of the number of confiscated transmitters. However, the Agency underlines that the number of illegal transmitters being confiscated is not a way of measuring their sucess. The percentage of illegal trms is the only way of measuring the degree of success.

Wednesday April 23rd 2003 the Telecom Agency joint forces with the regional Emmen & Hoogeveen police with a hit-and-run raid action in the province of Drenthe. At the same moment 10 different locations were raided. All locations were already tracked down and identified as being addresses used for the purpose of illegal transmissions. Six fairly powerful FM txs were confiscated, at 4 addresses no equipment was found. Clever pirates?? Wednesday June 18th



Dutch authorities have been discussing the actions against the Dutch pirates in the government. It seems that lots of politicians are supporting in some strange way the Dutch pirates and lots of them are speaking of "missing the pirates"!! Also some ideas have been launched how to let them stay active: a special spot on the 2/3 metre band for the pirates where they can transmit or just leave them alone as long they don't mess up and don't interfere with official stations. It is a known fact that most of the pirates are observing frequencies very careful before using them and if the power is being kept at a low level (which often is a problem) they could use them without interfering. Pirating the airwaves goes back to the start of official radio and TV in The Netherlands. It is part of Dutch culture and generally adopted. It's no secret that many famous Dutch deejays once started their career on a local FM or AM pirate.

**May 4th:** A lot of pirate radio stations have already been busted by the Dutch Agency Telecom. The counter has reached 60. The last few that were raided, were stations transmitting with powers varying between 0.6 and 5 kW on the FM dial. Salient detail: many of them were *not* transmitting at the moment of the raid. July 7th the figure of raided stations had increased to 140. Remarkable: at least 10 stations were raided more than once. Money, money, money... Surf to the following website for more info (in Dutch!):  
[< www.agentschap-telecom.nl/informatie/publicaties/etherflits/archief >](http://www.agentschap-telecom.nl/informatie/publicaties/etherflits/archief).

So what was the result for the Dutch Free Radio scene on SW since the introduction of the Project Etherflits? Knowing that the majority of Dutch SW stations are concentrated in the North-East region and knowing that the Project Etherflits' main purpose is to clean that same region from (mainly FM) pirates, it must be clear that most of the powerful SW pirates don't take the risk to be raided. Since late March/early April the SW airwaves aren't overcrowded anymore. Just take Radio Alfa Lima as a clear example. Usually the station is active each weekend. Since a few months the station has moved its equipment elsewhere resulting in zero activity. But also lots of other stations have become completely inactive! An unpleasant sensation for both station OPs and DXers throughout Europe. Time will tell what the future will be. SW Free Radio in the Netherlands won't disappear but is clearly dealing with a major blow.

Many of you will probably remember the revival of **Radio Nord** in 1991 on 6206 kHz on several Sundays. The man behind that project and a long time radio personality in Sweden, *Lasse Karlsson*, has passed away on New Years Eve (*Stig Hartvig Nielsen*).

The **2003 BAARLE-NASSAU SUMMERMEETING** was a successful event. Contrary to last year, the weather was fine. Last year several German people couldn't make it to Baarle-Nassau due to the extreme rain showers!! This year's event took place late June, two months earlier than 2002. Reason: the 2002 Summermeeting's date was very close to the Merchweier DX-Camp. A good move from Borderhunter OP Frans (who was a perfect host!). Several stations and listeners were attending the meeting and talked about various free radio/ SW related topics. Among the visitors Radio Brigitte, Radio Spaceman, Radio Likedeeler, Radio Rob 007, Radio Northpole, Radio Cassanova, FRS-Holland, Radio Columbia, Victoria, Radio Cupido, ROZ, Radio Delmare, Radio Intersound & Radio Bermuda Dreieck (among others).

**SW ADDRESSES \*\* SW ADDRESSES \*\* SW ADDRESSES \*\* SW ADDRESSES**  
 1 = P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands  
 3 = POBox 663, 7900 AR Hoogeveen, The Netherlands  
 4 = POBox 130, 92504 Rueil-Cedex, France.  
 5 = POBox 1136, D-06201 Merseburg, Germany (new!)  
 10=SRS, Ostra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby in Sweden

Due the AT actions (see elsewhere) **RADIO ALFA LIMA INTERNATIONAL** (3) has moved its transmitting equipment to a secret and safer place. So No Alfa Lima International in the very near future on those regular

frequencies 15070 kHz and between 6200 and 6300 kHz but....RAL will return someday, that's for sure! Updates and other information on this topic will be put on the webpage of Alfa Lima Int <[www.alfalima.net](http://www.alfalima.net)>. For questions E-mail to <[info@alfalima.net](mailto:info@alfalima.net)> or just give us a call between 07.00 UTC and 22.00 UTC on the number +31 619 508 938.

**APOLLO 815** uses the following E-mail add: <[radio815@hotmail.com](mailto:radio815@hotmail.com)>.

**RADIO ATLANTIS** from Beilen in the North-Eastern region of the Netherlands is one of the (too) many stations using that name. The station was heard with a very powerful signal on Sun March 2nd on 6272 kHz. Late Oct. 2002 saw a station on 48 metres using the name Atlantis and announcing the P.O.Box 128, 9410 AC Beilen address. Could have been the same station... Sat March 8th Atlantis was using 6291.

■ **RADIO BORDERHUNTER** (1) was heard with strong signals Sun July 13th on 6275. During several occasions, Borderhunter was observed on 48 metres, often on 6200 or 6210. E-mail add is <[borderhunter@hotmail.com](mailto:borderhunter@hotmail.com)>.

■ Saturday Febr. 8th 2003 it was exactly 23 years ago that **RADIO BRIGITTE** (1) officially commenced broadcasting on SW! That was in 1980 some 7 months before FRSH commenced broadcasting to Europe. OP Frans is a very amiable man who uses a low-powered 15W ex-military tx. On his 23rd birthday Brigitte was heard on 6307, the following day 6540 kHz was in use. Congrats Frans!! Sun July 13th 6540 was used, signal was rather poor.

■ **RADIO BRENTINA** is a newcomer in SW Free radio land and was heard during a number of occasions including Sun June 29th when 6300 was in use with a fairish signal. There was interference from Radio 48 being on 6300 already for a long time. Strange...Brentina should have known that was not the best choice... A tel. number was given, no E-mail or snailmail address.

■ June 29th **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** popped up on 6235 via JRR's relay facilities. BRI is one of the oldest UK-based SW stations but unfortunately isn't active anymore with own equipment nowadays. Also on Sun March 30th & April 13th 6235 relays were noted with nice signals on the continent.

■ Some months ago **CLASSIC ROCK RADIO** announced to close down. The station was mainly active in 2002 with powerful 41 mb broadcasts on 7470/ 7475 kHz. You cannot write anymore, the website is also closed.

■ **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** (5) from Germany has been rather active in the May/ June period. A number of times the station was heard with 24 hour trms: for instance in the weekend of Sat/Sun June 7th/8th. We assume these broadcasts were aired via a UK relay. Pxs are presented by station-OP Chris Ise (German Service) and his English colleague Andy Walker (English Service). Early January (10th) 2003 CWR was 10 years on the SW bands. That was not celebrated in January but during a 6260 broadcast Febr. 9th Andy Walker mentioned it several times in his show. Sun April 13th CWR was noted on 6209 and 6269 (not in //). CWR stands for rock music and regularly a mailbox programme is to be heard. Some time ago a special tribute to Bob Mersh was aired, presented by Andy Walker. E-mail addresses are : <[shortwave@gmx.de](mailto:shortwave@gmx.de)> & <[cwr@rock.com](mailto:cwr@rock.com)>.

■ Fri July 11th a new station was heard on 6306: **DARK STRANGERS RADIO**. Signal quality was rather poor. No address info was given out.

■ Sat/Sun February 8th/9th saw **RADIO DECIBEL** on several freqs including 6280, 6290 & 6295 kHz with fair signals. Add is P.O.Box 139, 7640 AC Wierden in the Netherlands. New E-mail: <[decibel48@hotmail.com](mailto:decibel48@hotmail.com)>. The station has a homepage via <[www.etherpirateninfo.nl](http://www.etherpirateninfo.nl)>.

■ **RADIO DELTA** from the province of West-Brabant announced for the first time a snailmail add during a 6300 broadcast on Sun March 30th. Add is P.O.Box 130, 4730 AC Oudenbosch in the Netherlands. E-mail is <[deltapirate@hotmail.com](mailto:deltapirate@hotmail.com)>.

■ **RADIO DEVALON INT.** (5) was heard loud and clear on 6240 Sun April 13th via Powert 41's strong tx. The station produces a nice mix of FR news and rock 'n' roll music. Pxs are moderated in English by Steve Young.

■ **RADIO DIGITAL** can be reached via <[digital48@hotmail.com](mailto:digital48@hotmail.com)>. The station has been noted a number of times on various 48 mb freqs including 6300 kHz March 23rd (strong signal) and 6281 a week later.

■ **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** (3) has been very inactive over the past few months. Sun March 16th saw the station on 7475 kHz with a mix of pop and rock classics. This was the last time RECH was noted. One reason for the inactivity is the project Etherflits (see at the top of the FR News section).

■ **ENERGY HIT RADIO** made its debut broadcast on 6267 kHz Sun Febr. 23rd. Signal-strength was fair to good. The station said to be broadcasting from the Netherlands. It looked like it was a taped show as 6210 was announced (that weekend Nova was occupying 6210). Pop oldies and 80s were heard. E-mail is <[energyhitradio@hotmail.com](mailto:energyhitradio@hotmail.com)>. No snailmail address known.

■ **ENJOY RADIO** (5) was heard with tests on the unusual 6403 July 9th and 10th. The station tested a new antenna. Sun July 13th Enjoy popped up on 6210 with a strong signal. New QSLs are available.

■ Perhaps readers will remember **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** being heard via the facilities of the IRRS in November & December 2002. These trms were aired on 13840 kHz. Signal quality varied between fair and very good. Early 2003 EMR made a deal with Laser Radio for relays on 5935 kHz. On its turn Laser Radio rents the 5935 AM 100 kW transmitter in Ulbroka, Latvia offering airtime to interested (free) radio stations. Febr. 9th EMR made its debut on 5935 kHz with a one hour broadcast. Already two weeks later- Febr. 23rd-EMR was heard with a new programme commencing at the same time: 16.00 UTC. Finally we mention March 9th and 23rd when E.M.R. did its last trms on 5935 for the time being. Btw: the one on the 9th was heard later in the evening. On the 23rd EMR commenced pxs at 15.00 UTC and produced a very strong signal on 5935 kHz. During the 5935 trms EMR announced Laser Radio's address: BCM Aquarius, London WC1N 3XX in the UK. E-mail add is <[emr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:emr@blueyonder.co.uk)>. We have been informed that EMR will be returning late August on the new 5775 kHz IRRS frequency. Trms will be in the evening



hours starting at 21.00 CEST (19.00 UTC). Ahead of the upcoming trm, an E-mail will be sent to a great number of DXers informing them with details.

■ Belgian **EXTREME RADIO** announces to be back on SW. Last test transmission was aired on Friday May 30th 2003 between 10 and 12 AM ,with only 3 watt (PA failed) and bad modulation. Future plans include broadcasts one or two times a month on the 76 meterband from a well hidden place in Belgium. These transmissions will go on a friday or saturday (sunday) night. Antenna :self made horizontal trap antenna , about 7.62m (25 foot) high . Test freqs are 6400, 6299, 3936 & 3996 kHz. For more details surf to <[www.xtremeradio2003.tk](http://www.xtremeradio2003.tk)> or E-mail to <[xtremeradio@freemail.nl](mailto:xtremeradio@freemail.nl)>.

■ **RADIO FREE LIMBURG** is a rare appearance on SW. Sat March 22nd saw the station on 6205 with a decent signal. The station ID-ed with "This is the voice of Radio Free Limburg, we are broadcasting from the free Republic of Limburg between Belgium and Germany." No snailmail address is available, reception reports can only be sent via E-Mail <[pa92@hetnet.nl](mailto:pa92@hetnet.nl)>.

■ **FREE RADIO FROM THE NETHERLANDS** is rarely to be heard on the SW bands. Sat January 25th saw the station on 3901 kHz/ 76 metres with a fair signal. Address is the well-known P.O.Box 65, 7260 AB Ruurlo in the Netherlands.

■ **FREE RADIO SANTA CRUZ** was noted via the IRRS's 13840 outlet Sat/Sun June 7th/8th. So far the station wasn't heard in Europe and the USA. Surf to the homepage <[got.net/~xavier/frsc/](http://got.net/~xavier/frsc/)> and you will find out that FRSC describes itself as an unlicensed station broadcasting 7 days a week on 96.3 FM in the Santa Cruz area. Add is P.O.Box 7507 in Santa Cruz, CA, USA. E-Mail: <[frsc@cruzio.com](mailto:frsc@cruzio.com)>.

■ **RADIO GALAXY** from the Netherlands is using a new antenna: the famous zippiro eh-antenna with its 54 cm not only very small but also ideal for for mobile use on the 7 MHz band. Possible freq is 7172 kHz. For pictures of this antenna surf to <[www.geocities.com/swrgalaxy/page2.html](http://www.geocities.com/swrgalaxy/page2.html)>. **More news:** Galaxy announced a series of new broadcasts on 41 metres live from Dutch waters for the month of June. In addition the station will commence AM trms in the 1500-1620 kHz freq range using a homebrew 2x EL84 transmitter. For reception reports or if you request info send an E-mail to: <[swrgalaxy@yahoo.com](mailto:swrgalaxy@yahoo.com)>.

■ British **RADIO GERONIMO** (10) has been heard from time to time on various freqs. Sun January 13th 9330 kHz was in use just after 12.00 UTC with a repeat of one of the Dave Scott shows. Dave Scott used to be the key-figure behind the popular Radio Apollo in the 1980s. The signal was pretty strong in Yorkshire but rather poor in Scotland.

■ UK-based **GOOD MUSIC RADIO** returned after a long absence on 6280 Sun July 6th. Signal quality varied between poor and good. Add is P.O.Box 3936, CO4 3XW Essex, Colchester. UK. It seems the station is rather infamous when it comes to replying to listeners' reception reports.

■ Apart from the SW bands, Dutch **RADIO INTERSOUND** can also be heard on the Internet. The station is on the Internet via <[www.intersoundradio.tk](http://www.intersoundradio.tk)>. Currently antenna problems prevent the station from transmitting on 48 metres. E-mail is <[intersoundradio@hotmail.com](mailto:intersoundradio@hotmail.com)>. No snailmail add is available at present time. Intersound was heard during several occasions on 48 metres, for instance March 9th on 6270 kHz and April 16th on 6316..

■ Also in 2003 **RADIO KORAK INT.** continues with Sat evening 3927 kHz trms. Sat June 28th/ Sat July 12th & 19th saw the station with the usual strong signals on 76 metres. Address remains P.O.Box 134 in 3780 BC Voorthuizen, the Netherlands.

■ **RADIO LIKEDEELER** is one of Germany's most regular stations on 48 metres. The station can be heard all over the 48 mb with a wide variety of musical tastes ranging from pop to funk and from soul to schlagers. It's a one man operation mostly producing nice signals from mobile sites. Often Likedeeler is doing joint trms with fellow Dutch and/or German FR stations, for instance with Spaceman on 6306 March 15th. Add is P.O.Box 73, 7160 AB Neede in the Netherlands.

■ Dutch Radio Monza was heard with its very first SW trm on 6306 Sun March 16th. Signal quality was badly affected by fading. The station located in the North-Eastern region of the Netherlands gave up FM trms in favour of SW (after visits from the authorities). Website: <[www.johnlaura.nl](http://www.johnlaura.nl)>. E-mail: <[monzaradio@hotmail.com](mailto:monzaradio@hotmail.com)>. The station is using a R&S SK-010 tx with some 40W of power.

■ **RADIO MORNINGSTAR** is now on <[www.radiomorningstar.tk](http://www.radiomorningstar.tk)>.

■ **RADIO MANUEL** uses the following E-mail add: <[radio\\_manuel\\_international@yahoo.com.au](mailto:radio_manuel_international@yahoo.com.au)>.

■ **RADIO MARABU**- Europe's radio station for alternative music- was heard in February and March testing the 5935 kHz 100 kW shortwave outlet of Laser Radio based in Lithuania. Dates were: Febr. 16th, March 2nd, 16th & 30th between 16.00-17.00 UTC. We are not sure whether Marabu will continue via Laser Radio. A while ago the UK organisation announced a change of frequency to the 31'mb but it looks like they met with problems. Laser Radio

hasn't been heard via 5935 for already a number of months. April 13th saw Marabu on 6310 via relay with a 24 hour broadcast. Obviously 6310 was replacing 6210 which was used in the past 12 months. Radio Marabu - Postfach 1166 - D 49187 Belm - Germany.

E-mail: <[marabu@radiomarabu.de](mailto:marabu@radiomarabu.de)>. Homepage: <[www.radiomarabu.de](http://www.radiomarabu.de)>.

■ **RADIO MEXICO** was to be heard for the first time on 48 metres 6288 and 6404 Sat March 8th. Signals were not very strong however. E-mail is <[mexam@hotmail.com](mailto:mexam@hotmail.com)>.

■ Italian **NEWS RADIO** carried out tests on Sat/Sun March 15th & 16th. Saturdays a test was carried out between 2115-22.00 UTC on 21890 kHz with 200W in USB. More tests followed on Sundays 14.00-15.00 UTC. In Western Europe no signals were picked up. Add is P.O.Box 29-CP, 25060 Cellatica-BS, Italy. E-mail: <[e\\_giancaspro@tin.it](mailto:e_giancaspro@tin.it)>.

■ Popular British **RADIO NOVA INT.** (4) was only heard once in 2003: Sun Febr. 23rd the station from Terry Phillips was noted on 6210 with fine signals. The reason for the long off-air period is not known. A pity as Nova has always put out a varied offer of decent programmes. E-mail is <[rnisw@aol.com](mailto:rnisw@aol.com)>.

■ **RADIO OMROEP ZUID** (5)) planned a test broadcast within the 17 mb on 17470 kHz Saturday March 1st. The trm lasted from 14.00 UTC till 17.00 UTC. Target area was Scandinavia and the South of Europe. Early July ROZ was very active: Tue July 1st saw the station on 6260, Fri July 4th on 6285 and Sat July 5th on 6262. Address is (1). New E-mail add is <[roz.am@chello.nl](mailto:roz.am@chello.nl)>.

■ **OZONE RADIO** was surprisingly heard on 9334 kHz 31'metres on Sun March 23rd. Signal quality was fair to good. A week later 7485 was in use but also on 9346 kHz Ozone was to be heard (not in parallel). This time both signals were rather weak. April 13th Ozone used 6200 kHz for a change... Add is 85 Hillsdale Rd West, Suffolk, NR35 RH in the UK. E-mail: <[bbms4ozone@compuserve.com](mailto:bbms4ozone@compuserve.com)>.

■ Good old **RADIO PANDORA** (10) from the UK was noted on 7475 kHz Sun March 23rd. Unfortunately the signal was rather weak on the continent.

■ The former OP of German Eastside Radio re-commenced a relay service on 6241 kHz 48 metres Sat/Sun Febr. 22nd/23rd. Main station to be heard that weekend was **POWER 41** (5). Also heard were Stauder Radio & Star Club Radio. The tx was obviously drifting a little bit. Signal-strength was good, modulation was not ok. Ever since Power 41 has been heard several times: March 16th (6240), March 23rd (6240) & March 30th (6240). During the latter date it was announced that no less than 1000W of power were being used. This new tx was for the very first time use on Wednesday March 26th when an early evening test on 6240 resulted in a very strong signal. April 13th Power was once again using 6240 with nice & strong signals.

■ **RADIO PIEPZENDER** was raided Jan. 12th. The station was testing on 48 metres with low power and after only having played two records police raided the station. An example of bad luck! The authorities tracked down a local FM pirate and following that raid they picked up the Piepzender on their sophisticated receiver. The same happened with Radio New Wave in 1987!

■ **RADIO PUNKSTATION** (3) has been heard a couple of times on 41 metres 7520 kHz with a power of some 40W. This new Dutch station uses (3) and <[punkstation@hotmail.com](mailto:punkstation@hotmail.com)>. Website: <[www.geocities.com/radiopunkstation](http://www.geocities.com/radiopunkstation)>. As the name suggests the station plays punk-like music from bands such as Sum41, Heiderosjes, Nirvana etc.

■ **Q-103** (10) from Scandinavia was heard with strong signals on 13840 kHz (via the IRRS) Sat June 28th.

■ Some of you might remember SBC, the **SATELLITE BROADCASTING COMPANY**. Since a while SBC is active via the Internet via this URL: <[www.wfcc-media-service-company.com](http://www.wfcc-media-service-company.com)>. During weekdays Mon- Fri from 22.00-23.00 UTC and on Sat 19.00-20.00 UTC.

■ **RADIO SPACEMAN** can be irregularly heard on SW 48 metres but excellent signals. Sun June 29th the station was noted on 6308 kHz. During the Baarle-Nassau meeting FRS' Peter V. had a nice talk with the sympathetic OP of the station. Add is P.O.Box 73, 7160 AB Neede in the Netherlands.

■ **RADIO SPACESHUTTLE INT.** announced Special Midsummer programmes (with huge amount of obscure music) on 48 metres for Thursday, Fri, Sat and Sun June 19th- 22nd. June 19th RSI was on 6285 between 17.00-21.00 UTC, Friday 20th June pxs were commenced at 14.00 UTC on 6280, at 15.00 UTC on 6260, at 15.20 UTC on 6270 kHz and between 17.00-18.00 UTC on 6285 kHz. Both Saturday and Sunday 22.00-02.00 UTC the station was on 9326 kHz. All trms were carried out with very low power: approx. 10-15 watts. Address is RSI, P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten in The Netherlands. Good news: now at least for a while Radio Spaceshuttle has also own web-pages. Surf to <[spacesshuttle.freeservers.com](http://spacesshuttle.freeservers.com)>.

■ **STUDIO ATLANTIS** is a new (?) Dutch station originating from the North Eastern region. Fri July 11th Atlantis was heard QSO-ing on 6308 with fellow hobby pirates. Power seems to be 100W.

■ Good old **SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS** from the UK was noted on 6300 in the late evening of Fri July 4th. The usual speech-based format with alternative music (jazz, blues etc.) was noted. Signal-strength was good. Address ??



■ **RADIO SUMMERNIGHT** was an one-off project emanating from "secret" grounds at the Belgian-Dutch border Sat/ Sun June 28th/29th. The station broadcasting with low power (nearly 20W) on approx. 6303 kHz was situated at the Free Radio Summermeeting near Baarle-Nassau, organized by radio Borderhunter. Pxs commenced in the late Sat evening and continued on Sun morning on 6405. Involved were a number of station-OPs from stations like Intersound, Victoria, ROZ and Bermuda Dreieck. The following E-mail add was announced: <[summermeeting@hotmail.com](mailto:summermeeting@hotmail.com)>.

■ **RADIO THUNDERBIRD** (5) made its debut trm Sun March 9th. Freq was 6252, a freq which is not the most common one these days. Signal quality was poor/fair due to mutual interference with a UNid using 6254 kHz..

■ Sun Jan. 26th **RADIO DR. TIM** (5) celebrated 10 years on the air with a special broadcast on 6290. Already on Fri Jan. 24th (that day was the real anniversary) Dr. Tim started celebrations on 6295 and the day after 6260 was chosen. Three different QSLs were issued to the listeners. Radio Dr. Tim started operations January 24th 1993 with a reay via the NIRS in Northern Ireland. More relays were carried out via RWI, Orang Utan, WRI, Radio Europe, SBC, Starshin, Radio Baltic Int. & Ozone Radio. In addition Dr. Tim was relayed by USA pirate NAPRS and Kiwi Radio in New Zealand. During the station's 5th birthday in 1998 there were 5 different pxs on 5 different freqs (and 5 different QSLs as well...). Nowadays Dr. Tim's-Pirate-News has become quite known and popular among European Free Radio enthusiasts. Congrats Dr. Tim!!

■ **RADIO TOWER** (formerly Veronique) was heard with a low power test on Sat July 12th. The following day the station returned on full power on 6301 kHz. Since early Dec. 2002, Tower had been silent! E-mail is <[radiotower@home.nl](mailto:radiotower@home.nl)>.

■ Sad news this time. Paul Johnson of the very well known station **UK RADIO** died of a suspected heart attack. He was 44 which is of course much too young. The FRSN staff did send condolences via a special E-mail address set up by Alfred of Alfa Lima Int.

■ Dutch **RADIO VICTORIA** (5) can be heard from time to time. Sun March 9th saw the station with a nice signal on the unusual 6390 kHz. Sun March 16th 6285 was in use with a power of 25W. Sat April 5th 6275 was in use and on the 13th 6205. E-mail add is <[freeradiovictoria@hotmail.com](mailto:freeradiovictoria@hotmail.com)>.

■ **RADIO WAVES INT.** (4) from France was heard testing all day on 6275 Sun Febr. 9th. The station was heard with fair/ good signals. This is remarkable as RWI has always been active within the 26 mb (11401) and 41 metres (mostly 7484). Also on the 9th of March & April 6th RWI was heard on 6275. Sun July 6th RWI was noted with fair signals on 6260 kHz. E-Mail: <[rwaves@imaginet.fr](mailto:rwaves@imaginet.fr)>. Website: <[go.to/rwi](http://go.to/rwi)>.

■ **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** was heard with a poor signal (at least on the European continent) on 6310 Sun June 10th. The station is mostly to be heard on 7525: Sun March 9th and March 30th poor signals were noted on 7525 kHz. Add used to be 14 Stone Row, Londonderry, BT52 1EP, Coleraine, UK. The E-Mail add should be this one: <[wmrsw@37.com](mailto:wmrsw@37.com)>.

■ This year saw a definitive return of UK-based **WEST & NORTH KENT RADIO** on 48 metres. The station can be heard with proper pxs including Andy Walker who's also active on CWR. Sun June 29th WNKR was active on two freqs being not in parallel with each other: 6267 and 6285. The latter was clearly the stronger one. WNKR has returned to a "each Sunday" sequence. Signals are mostly fair, during evening hours the signal is really strong. Currently 6285 seems to be the station's fixed frequency. Pxs are running on Saturdays and Sundays.

E-mail: <[wnkr@rock.com](mailto:wnkr@rock.com)>.

■ **WEST COAST RADIO** announced a brandnew add during its 6295 broadcast Sun June 29th: Baljuw straat 24, 2225 GG Katwijk in the Netherlands. E-mail adds: <[westcoast48@noknok.nl](mailto:westcoast48@noknok.nl)> and <[westcoastam@hotmail.com](mailto:westcoastam@hotmail.com)>.

■ The following news was received by E-mail from **WREKIN' RADIO INT.** (late June): Hi folks, due to personal reasons and technical problems WR International has been off the last 3-4 weeks. Now is the time to put the station back on air. So you may like to know that WRI will be back on air for programs on 12256 kHz June 29th from 00:30 hours until 11:00 hours BST. E-mails and reports are welcome at <[radio@wrinternational.net](mailto:radio@wrinternational.net)> or you can send your reports to WRI, via the Sweden mail drop. Depending on where you are you might like to try the online feed, if this is the case you can find out how to listen on-line at <[www.wrinternational.net](http://www.wrinternational.net)>. We look forward to hearing from you." ( Dave Jones). Sun July 13th saw WRI once again on 12256 kHz, however, the higher freqs were very poor during summer time, that day was no exception.

■ A new **RADIO 48** was noted on SW 48 metres a couple of times. Febr. 8th the station was noted on 6300 with a poorish signal. The same freq was used Sat March 15th, Sun March 30th, Sat June 8th & 28th. During the latter date the station was heard till very late in the evening suffering from heavy interference from a Taiwan-based station. It has no connection whatsoever to the old famous UK-based Radio 48 which closed down late 1990. That station

was run by Howard Bell. When a new law came into force, both Atlanta Radio and Radio 48 closed down. We heard from Howard Bell that two of the old jocks from the orginal Radio 48- Tony Rossi and Ian Scott- have expressed an interest in restarting the old Radio 48.

## CAROLINE NEWS

Radio Caroline UK reported that their service on Hotbird ceased at midnight on March 31st. This channel had been loaned to Caroline by the World Radio Network to cover the transition from 19.2 degrees to 28 and to fill in when they are obliged to change frequencies on the new Eurobird channel. It may be that Caroline will take Hotbird again in future either to simulcast Caroline or for a new service. For the month of March 2003, the encrypted signal of Caroline on the Worldspace satellite was again free to air. This gave all recent purchasers of Wordspace radio sets across the Afristar reception area a chance to sample Caroline. This fact was promoted on other Wordspace channels. Existing subscribers will be awarded a bonus month at the end of the subscription period.

Worldspace is the only satellite system sending radio signals for portable radio sets and Radio Caroline is the first UK broadcaster taking a Wordspace channel. Caroline website: <[www.radiocaroline.co.uk/news.htm](http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk/news.htm)>.

After the successful introduction of Caroline to the Sky network and the following complaints about the sound quality which some found to be rather less than expected, the Caroline station has now settled down to a new audience with reports of more people listening to the station.

**Wednesday, 2 July 2003**

Radio Caroline has been promoting her presence in the 21st century by teaming up with rock band Status Quo and broadcasting her programmes to audiences of tens of thousands through their PA system prior to the on-stage appearance of the band. Caroline merchandise has been available from a stall within the concert grounds, and tens of thousands of flyers detailing tuning procedures have been distributed to concert-going rock fans across the UK. Caroline DJ Rob Leighton, who presents the Imagination show, told: "It's been a real hit. Everybody knew of our past activities at sea, but many were unaware of our current presence on Sky. It was clearly a success - many were texting the studio and then cheering when their names appeared on the PA system! We really couldn't have hoped for a better promotional vehicle."

### Ross Revenge

Roel Jager did sent in a report from one of his radio friends Roland, who did visit the Ross Revenge lately: "My mission on Sunday 6th July was to seek out and find the new mooring for the Ross Revenge. Not only did I find the ship but I later found myself on board looking at some of the work that the Northern repair group have been carrying out. On arriving at the jetty I saw some of the repair group loading the Caroline mini bus with all their kit. I walked down to the end of the pontoon and met up with Peter Clayton who was unloading the outboard dinghy. I introduced myself and he invited me to take a ride out to the Ross moored over the other side of the river. I spent an enjoyable two hours aboard with Peter showing me some of the work that they have carried out. I was impressed at the new galley that has been fitted which was donated by the Dutch supporters. I also had a look at the work that has been carried out on the steering gear that was badly damaged when they went aground on the Goodwin Sands. Peter told me that the move had gone well taking about 4 hours escorted by two tugs and a pilot from the Medway Port authority. More details about the move can be found on the premium phone line that has been updated. 0906 7669990. Well done to Peter's gang of men for all the hard work they have been doing for so long. From Rochester Bridge you can see the ship on the opposite side. From Strood turn left just before Rochester Bridge along Canal Road. From the Rochester side take the right hand lane over the bridge and turn right along Canal Road. There is a pontoon on the right hand side along Canal Road. There is ample parking in the area. You can take photos from the pontoon."

### Caroline via WBCQ

According to Al Weiner (July 16th) US commercial SW broadcaster WBCQ is currently not carrying Radio Caroline but will be airing them in the future. Most likely on 17495 kHz.

### Ross Revenge

John and Jenny Knight from the Horizon and Caroline Sales did mention in their last issue that still people are needed to work on the MV Ross Revenge as a volunteer. A lot of painting has to be done as well as other maintenance work. So if you have some spare time this summer please lend them a hand. Contact John by e mailing: <[johnwknight@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:johnwknight@tiscali.co.uk)>.

It now seems that the plans to have an RSL from the Ross Revenge this summer are put on ice. So far no official announcements have been made, the UK-based Horizon magazine makes mention of a plan to bring the Ross Revenge to Southend on Sea in 2004. By the time you're reading this, the



former radio ship from Radio Caroline has also left its mooring at Queenborough (see above info). Reason for towing it away is that a mooring maintenance program is undertaken in The Medway Ports. When this is completed the authorities will review their charging regime. So there will be more money needed to save the ship.

May 21st saw the 63rd birthday of Caroline founder Ronana O'Rahilly. Congrats!

#### Dutch Radio Caroline

##### *Caroline's troubles !!*

With the news (end of May) of the failure of the Dutch Radio Caroline to secure an AM frequency and it's recent demise on the Dutch cable network, the future does not look very bright for the Dutch Radio Caroline, coupled with this is the dismal performance of the original UK Radio Caroline after choosing to go on the new Worldspace platform , which hardly anybody in the UK knows anything about and the intermittent service on the internet stream along with the non EPG service on the Sky network, it now seems that Caroline has to count on it's supporters to continue pouring in money, to something that many seem to be a lost cause. At the same time the Caroline Organisation in the UK seems to be thinking about a second channel.

#### MORE OFFSHORE NEWS

##### New radio ship?

News is that the pirate radio ship now to be renamed MV Marianas and registered in Hong Kong , is almost ready to go, with a new transmitter having been installed due to the fact that the one supplied recently suddenly decided to give up the ghost by melting most of it's components, causing some trouble for the skeleton crew aboard the ship which has now been painted a striking white and blue color with the aerial array in the same colors. The crew of seven,one American and the rest Dutch , except for the cook who is Spanish are at the moment preparing the ship to go to sea with the help of local engineers, employed by the French/Dutch consortium which own the station and ship, unfortunately we have not been given the name which the station is to be called , but it is hoped to be on air before the begining of August , and certainly before August 14th.

##### MV Communicator

On March 27th 2003, The Super Station (TSS) acquired the radio ship MV Communicator for use as a radio station. The 190 ton ship- built in 1954- is 62 metres long and has a width of 9m. Unfortunately, any thoughts of broadcasting have been severely delayed due to vandals entering the ship and smashing up much of the equipment, leaving the new organisation with massive repair bills. On <[www.carolinacentral.com](http://www.carolinacentral.com)> (now defunct)the next info could be read at the end of April: *'Fresh information about the ex Laser 558 ship shows that the new unnamed British owner does not intend to scrap the ship if such can be avoided, but has a project for the vessel. However, his hopes have been damped after contractors removed equipment that was not part of the sale inventory and left the ship open. In a remote location it was easy for vandals to board the Communicator and she has now been extensively looted and vandalised. A group of people, fascinated by the ship, have been visiting it on a regular basis to observe its decline, but seemingly have done nothing to guard the vessel or make it secure. On Sunday 27th April, structural engineers from Radio Caroline boarded the ship with the owners permission. It is thought that this team will first secure all openings to the ship and then see if some lighting and running water can be restored. They are hampered by the fact that the engine room is flooded and the ship is listing heavily to starboard having settled on an underwater obstruction at the stern. It is not known if Caroline's intervention is a one off emergency gesture or the first phase of a permanent involvement.'*

The main priority at the moment is to bring the MV Communicator back from Pampushaven in the Netherlands to Essex, UK enabling TSS to carry out repairs and restore her to her former glory as a working radio ship. TSS reports: *"One of our plans is to relaunch "The Communicator Club" very soon. Membership of the club will provide you with an exclusive newsletter, trips to see the ship once she returns to the UK, and progress reports as we continue work on her. Discounts on merchandise will also become available. Funds from the membership will help to finance the extensive repairs we need to carry out. Once repairs to the ship are complete, our aim is to launch a live twenty four hour radio station, broadcasting a mixture of hot A.C. and soft rock. Very soon we will be publishing recently taken photographs of the ship. This will enable you to witness the scale of the damage, and give you an idea of the extent of repairs needed in order to make the dream of bringing this ship back to life a reality."* The Dutch Nozema has dismantled the 50 kW Harris DX Series AM transmitter.

December 27th 1983 we first learned about the Communicator. January 19th 1984 the first tests including helium balloons linked with the antenna wires.

The new station calls itself Laser broadcasting on 729 kHz AM. May 24th 1984 US jock Rick Harris opens up the brandnew Laser 558. Despite a number of serious setbacks, laser becomes immensely popular in the UK and the Netherlands. November 5th 1985 at 12.20 hours, Laser 558 leaves the airwaves for good. November 8th the MV Communicator sails into Harwich harbour. Ray Anderson buys the ship and December 1st 1986 Laser Hot Hits 576 commences broadcasts. Less than half a year later- April 20th 1987- the Laser Hot Hits adventure comes to a definitive end. Via Portugal, the ship falls into the hands of a Dutch organisation. The Communicator becomes the home of Holland FM. The ship was also used by Veronica (which took over Holland FM) and Quality Radio. Since Q Radio ceased trms from the Communicator, the ship is unused and no more work has been carried out to keep the ship in good condition. The once so proud former broadcasting vessel is moored near Pampus, Almere. Very sad but true... We are curious about the ship's future. Perhaps chances will take a turn for the better.

So what are the plans with the Communicator? The new owners want to rebuild the ship into a real radio ship again and mention it *Radio Rainbow*. A song by The Rolling Stones (She's a rainbow) will, when they will be ever on the air, be used as a station tune. They proclaim they've deejays and staff of former stations like Veronica, RNI and Monique who can help them utmost. Some things they want, including a 50 kW transmitter. Everyone is rolling over the AM to see when the station will be on the air, but please be patience as it will take a long time. Even someone suggested that it's only a publicity stunt from Rusling to get more attention for his forthcoming Long Wave station. The FRS Newsletter will keep you in the picture !!

In the afternoon hours of Tuesday June 24th, the MV Communicator left the anchorage of Almere harbour. She was towed to IJmuiden harbour were essential maintanance will be carried out.

In one of his programs on satellite Radio Caroline, Johnny Lewis told that the Communicator will be anchored next to the Ross Revenge to get two ships together as a statue for the history of Offshore Broadcasting.

If you are interested in an excellent series of recent Communicator photos covering the ship's departure from Almere heading for IJmuiden, then surf to the following website : <[members.chello.nl/p.damave/communicator/comm9.html](http://members.chello.nl/p.damave/communicator/comm9.html)> .

#### NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

##### Laser Radio

Some months ago we received an E-mail informing that Laser Radio would be changing to the new frequency 9520 kHz replacing 5935. Despite the 100,000 Watts of power, 5935 kHz suffered from quite heavy interference from Radio Prague using the adjacent 5930 kHz (with possibly 250 or even 500 kW). In an official E-mail Laserradio mentioned *"we are pleased to announce a move to a new frequency for our European listeners. From April 13 you will be able to hear us on 9520 kHz with extended broadcast hours between 12:00 and 20:00 UTC. In order to carry out essential aerial maintenance our European service will be off the air Sunday March 30th and April 6th. Our North American service via WBCQ on 9330kHz from Maine is unaffected and will be on air as normal with a modified schedule"* So far nothing did happen and since March Laser Radio hasn't been heard on the European SW airwaves. It might be caused by the fact the proposed move to 9520 experienced resistance from the ITC in Geneva being in charge of the frequency policy in Europe. When surfing to the Laser website <[www.laserradio.net](http://www.laserradio.net)> all info regarding SW broadcasts has disappeared. Instead it reads that Laser Radio will be serving Amsterdam and surroundings on 1557 AM later this year. For some this might seem weird but that's not true knowing Laser Radio is connected to Ruud Poeze's Quality Radio organisation having obtained several AM frequencies at the end of May when the Dutch government announced which stations/ organisations were the lucky ones. Ruud Poeze is closely related to a number of British stations/organisations including....Laser Radio. According to the scant info on the website, Laser should commence trms on 1557 "later this year".

##### Tests on 1386 AM

Radio Baltic Waves International (RBWI) from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius has confirmed conducting "channel marker" transmissions on 1386 kHz, where an unidentified station has been heard playing non-stop pop music. The transmission is aired at 2000-2100 UTC and originates from a 25-kilowatt transmitter in Giruliai. According to a station press release, reported by Bernd Trutenau on MW-DX, correct reception reports will be verified and should be sent by snail mail, containing an audio tape of the broadcast. The station is also interested in the reception of its relays of China Radio International in the evening hours on the frequency of 1557 kHz (150 kW from Sitkunai). The address is Radio Baltic Waves International, Vivulskio 7-405, Vilnius LT-2006, Lithuania. 1386 kHz is also used by a transmitter in nearby



Bolshakovo, Kaliningrad. This transmitter airs Voice of Russia programming at 0900-2000 UTC (*DX-ing Info*).

### Dutch Radioday 2003

The Dutch Media Communication Foundation (Stichting Media Communicatie = SMC) and Freewave Media Magazine both celebrate their 25th anniversary in 2003. The annual Radio day will be organised Saturday October 25th, usually Hans Knot & Rob Olothof are organizing this day in March. Place to be for this special celebration day is the 'Artis Party Centre' in Amsterdam. Freewave will be producing two special editions later this year. In September there will be an English language edition covering the various protests, demonstrations and organisations which were involved in the Fight for Free Radio. In June a special Freewave photo-edition came out.

### New book Danish Offshore radiostations

June saw the introduction of a brandnew book covering the Danish Offshore radiostations, Radio Mercur and DCR. The title of the book is "*Pirater i æteren - Radio Mercur og Danmarks Commerciale Radio Dansk Reklameradio fra Øresund 1958-62*" is in the bookstores in Denmark - published by The Press Museum of Denmark and the University Press of Southern Denmark. The Press Museum - situated in Odense on Funen - is presenting an exhibition on the offshore stations with pictures, television-recordings and audio from the Danish pirates. The exhibition runs from June 14th until August 31st 2003. Check <[www.radio-mercur.dk](http://www.radio-mercur.dk)>. So now you know what to do if you're planning your summer holiday in Denmark!

### Heavy Fine for US FM Pirate

Most pirate radio stations are active within the Netherlands. But pirating on the airwaves is not entirely a Dutch affair.

The US FCC Enforcement Office recently raided a New York based pirate station. Rawlins Charles who was in charge of the station was sentenced to pay a \$ 10,000 (!!) penalty for putting a radio station on the air without license. The station broadcasted from Brooklyn, N.Y. on 97.6 MHz.

### AWR DX-Show

From Sunday 6 July 2003 at 0900 UTC on AWR - Adventist World Radio (in Italian) a new 20 minutes weekly DX programme called "Studio DX" will be on the air on 11880 kHz from Julich- Germany with 100 kW. The programme is dedicated to BCL, SWL and HAM world. Every correct reception report (both via mail or e-mail) will be confirmed with a special AWR QSL card ! E-mail <[studiodx@europe.com](mailto:studiodx@europe.com)>. Snail mail : AWR, Viuzzo del Pergolino 4, 50139 Florence, Italy.

### Andy Cadier quits

After almost 13 years of writing the Anorak page in "Short Wave Magazine" comes to an end. Andy Cadier has advised the editor that after the August issue he will cease his contributions published bi-monthly in the 'Off The Record' feature. There is no conflict, quite the reverse really, but Andy just don't feel as enthusiastic as he once did and at the risk of becoming boring he thinks it best to pass the keyboard on to someone else. He took up the page in July 1991. Thanks Andy for all your great work!

### IRRS

The following news was received from the IRRS: "We are announcing a slight frequency change for our daily broadcast in the evening, European time (previously on 5780 kHz). Effective June 21, 2003 IRRS-Shortwave to Europe can be heard daily on 5775 kHz from 1900-2130 UTC (2100-2230 CET), besides our operations on Sat & Sun only on 13840 from 0800-1200 UTC (1000-1400 CET). The latest frequency schedule is available at:

<[www.nexus.org/NEXUS-IBA/Schedules](http://www.nexus.org/NEXUS-IBA/Schedules)> .

### Scandinavian Weekend Radio

Starting at 21.00 hours UTC Friday 4th July, Finnish SCANDINAVIAN WEEKEND RADIO, celebrated its third anniversary with a 24 hour transmission with us with special Birthday programmes. They had live bands on stage at 11 to 15 hours UTC. SWR reports they have repaired their 48 mb cage-dipole and put it to new higher position. SWR broadcasts simultaneously on 49 and 25 metres. The following freqs are in use: 5990, 5980, 6170, 11690 & 11720 kHz. For updates about programmes, freq schedules and news surf to <[www.swradio.net](http://www.swradio.net)>. E-Mail: <[info@swradio.net](mailto:info@swradio.net)>. Reports: <[raportit@swradio.net](mailto:raportit@swradio.net)> . Congrats to the whole crew of SWR from all of us at FRS!! A few months ago SWR put out the documentary "10 Years in the Life of FRS-Holland".

### Extending licenses

Recently saw 15 UK-based stations extending their AM/FM broadcasting licenses with another 8 years. The licenses were automatically extended. This is a result of an agreement which says that if a station is covering at least 25% of its coverage via DAB, its license is automatically extended. A way of stimulating broadcasting stations to make use of Digital Audio Broadcast. It concerns Capital Radio, Southern FM, Invicta FM, Ocean FM/Power FM and several stations affiliated to Capital Gold. All these stations have in common their coverage is south of London. Other lucky stations were Radio City 96.7

and Magic 1548 in Liverpool, Hallam FM and Magic AM in South-Yorkshire, Signal 1, 2, The Wave, Swansea Sound (being part of The Wireless Group) and The Beach.

### Radio 270 Movie

There is now some doubt that a movie will be made about the short lived offshore station Radio 270. Rumours circulated that filming would start in Yorkshire last autumn / winter but nothing seems to have happened. The film was to be based on a script that former 270 DJ Paul Burnett had been offering to film companies for some time. It is loosely based on the interaction between teenagers listening on the beach to 270 and the life of the presenters on board. Bob Preedy, who has written a book about the station, suggested that filming was to be moved entirely to Belgium, but at this stage as before nothing seems to have commenced. Perhaps this is more 'anorak' wishful thinking.

### Johnny Walker

Recently BBC Radio 2-Jock Johnnie Walker (58) shocked his audience by telling them doctors have ascertained he suffers from cancer. Initially Walker didn't want to tell the bad news but because he would be off air for a period due to medical treatment, he thought it would be fair to inform his audience. At 18.55 hours Johnnie unexpectedly finished his popular show with these words: *"Before I go there is something I want to mention. It is something that normally a person in my position would want to keep close to their chest but, because of the occasional time off I might be taking, I wanted to go public with it. Five weeks ago I was diagnosed with cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, which is apparently a very treatable type of cancer. I am kicking off the treatment tomorrow and will be taking a week off and will see how it goes. To all those who are facing that challenge - and those who love people and are part of a family facing that challenge - it's a toughy isn't it? I know how you feel."* Then he played Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" dedicating it to each and everyone fighting against cancer.

Walker is one of the longest-serving BBC jocks. His real name is Peter Dingley and he grew up in the West-Midlands. His passion for music greatly contributed to becoming a deejay on the popular offshore station Radio Caroline. In contrast with colleagues such as Tony Blackburn, Walker decided to continue as an offshore jock after the infamous Marine Offences Act took effect. In 1969 he started a legal career on BBC Radio 1 where he started presenting a daily lunch show. Disagreements about the music format made him decide to leave the Beeb in 1976. Walker crossed the ocean and ended up in San Francisco where he started working for Radio Luxembourg. Early 80s he returned to his native country where he presented shows on a number of local stations in the Greater Birmingham area. A few years later he made his come-back on BBC Radio One. Nowadays he presents a daily 17-19 hours slot on BBC Radio 2.

### The Erkrath - Radioday

Saturday September 13th this event will be again organized in the rooms of the local observatory. The event is scheduled from 13.00 noon to 20.00 hours in the rooms of the Observatorium of Sternwarte Neanderhöhe at D-40699 Erkrath. Opening is at 12.00 hours. The topics for 2003 are : *shortwave - mediumwave - longwave*. Shortwave: Radio Marabu introduces themselves to their audience. Mediumwave: the Netherlands after the new frequency allocation , Radio Caroline takes a balance. Longwave : MusicMann 279 from the Isle of Man . Special guest is Paul Alexander Rusling, chief executive of the Isle of Man International Broadcasting plc. This new station for Europe is in talk for many years . What really happened there, will the station come on air, why today investing in longwave radio? Paul Rusling will give answers to such questions on a specially technical interesting project with pictures and videos , not without a look back to the MV Communicator of Laser 558! The location: >From Düsseldorf railway station one can get there with train S 8, direction Wuppertal/ Hagen. You leave at stop Hochdahl-Millrath and walk the road in direction of the train to small way on right hand named Hausmannsweg. After a few hundred meters you see the observatory.

By car you leave Autobahn A 46 at exit Haan West to Erkrath, in the town the way is marked "Observatorium". You find a map under <[snh.rp-online.de](http://snh.rp-online.de)> or <[www.radiocaroline.de](http://www.radiocaroline.de)> . The entrance fee is € 7.- ( € 3,50 for Caroline Support Groupmembers). Preliminary registration or requests please to: Jan Sundermann , Millrather Weg 74 , D 40699 Erkrath, Germany.

### New Norwegian station

In Norway Northern Star International Broadcasters AS started their work lobbying for commercial use of the frequency 216 kHz, abandoned by state broadcaster NRK in 1994. The licence for up to 1.2 Megawatts of power was eventually advertised in 2000, and NSIBC became the sole applicant after a Tamil organisation withdrew their application. NSIBC has been asked by the Norwegian Mass Media Authority to negotiate a location for their transmitter and also present the final financial funding before they issue the official licence. NSIBC primarily want to put its tx somewhere on the southwestern coast of Norway. Website: <[www.northernstar.no/longwave.htm](http://www.northernstar.no/longwave.htm)> .



## New Hope for Dublin Pirates

The Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI) has placed adverts in the 4th July newspapers seeking expressions of interest from groups interested in operating new FM radio stations in the Dublin area. A reorganisation of frequencies has created space for several new ones. A number of the pirate stations that were raided and shut down in May are expected to apply. Some had applied unsuccessfully for licenses in the past. BCI chief executive Michael O'Keeffe says the Commission is "open to suggestions" on the nature of the services to be provided. Interested parties will have to provide a general description of the service and the target audience and details of the ownership structure and the capacity to provide the service. "[The BCI] will take into account... the rationale for the service, together with a statement of how such a service will add to the diversity of services already in existence throughout Dublin city and county," O'Keeffe said. The closing date for the receipt of expressions of interest is 12 September and the BCI anticipates that a report will be presented to the board by October.

## International Funkausstellung

In August the 'Internationale Funkausstellung' (International Broadcasting Exhibition) will take place again in Berlin. In connection with this long running exhibition there will be also a special event for short-wave listeners and people who are interested in radio. Place to be is Saturday August 30th from 18 hrs. in Preussischen Landwirthaus, Flatowallee 23, Charlottenburg Berlin. More information can be get from Andreas Erbe at: <[aerbe@arcor.de](mailto:aerbe@arcor.de)>.

## 4000th Restricted Service Licence issued by radio authority

March 25th the Radio Authority issued its 4000th short-term restricted service licence (RSL). This has been issued to Sabrang Radio, in Bradford, which will broadcast to the Sikh community of the city to celebrate the Sikh cultural and religious festival of Vaisakhi from 1 to 28 April. Commenting on this milestone, Tony Stoller, Chief Executive of the Radio Authority, said: "We have always been very proud of this RSL scheme. Short-term licences offer a great opportunity to large numbers of people to make radio for a variety of purposes and, by doing so, they provide a valuable service to their community. The popularity of the scheme grows year on year, and we are delighted to have reached this milestone."

## New Jingle CD

A mention about a CD on the history of radio. To be more specific, history of the *jingle*. In The Netherlands, the Genootschap Radiojingles and Tunes, have produced a lot of brilliant CDs in the past years. Since a couple of weeks a new one is out. Its called TROS Radio TM jingles 1979-1981. Next to the beautiful jingles, which were resung for the Dutch Public Broadcaster, also the original demo tapes from TM, which stands for Tom Merriman, can be heard. It's all produced in a documentary style and includes also an interview with Tom Merriman in which he tells how the packages 'TM Winning Score' and 'TM Radio Express' were produced in the seventies. For more info on the products of Genootschap Radiojingles and Tunes just take a look at the following site: <[www.jingleweb.com](http://www.jingleweb.com)>.

## Documentary series

Standby (well, one months' warning!) for a new 2 x 60 minute documentary series on 'pirate' radio (from North and Irish seas). August 26th and September 2nd, BBC Radio 2, 2030 BST. According to 'Broadcast' magazine it will: "explore the history of the first regular off-shore English language service - Veronica-to the mid-1960s when stations like Radio Caroline and Radio London ruled the waves." It's written by former pirate DJ Pete Drummond. Producer is Nick St. George (which sounds like a pirate radio DJ's name if I ever I heard one!) and is an independent production from Heavy Entertainment.

## Euroradio 2003

France Radio Club and Offshore Echo's annual event has a new date and a new venue, for this commemoration of 20 years of Radio Caroline's famous ship Ross Revenge. Euroradio 2003 takes place in Calais, France on Saturday September 13th 2003, at the Hotel Georges V in the centre of Calais. Euroradio starts at 2.00pm local time features a selection of offshore radio videos playing during the afternoon. We'll also be talking to our special guests. The Offshore Echo's Boutique will be open during the event, featuring a wide range of offshore radio related merchandise. In the evening there is a special Euroradio dinner, with fine French cuisine including wine, at the Georges V restaurant. The Hotel Georges V is situated in the Rue Royale, Calais's main street, and close to numerous bars, restaurants and shops. Euroradio 2003 costs €35 including dinner, or just €10 for the afternoon (without dinner). For bookings and further information visit the Offshore Echos website <[www.offshoreechos.com](http://www.offshoreechos.com)> or mail Offshore Echos. Full details of travel, hotels and Calais maps will be sent with bookings.

## New Radio Nova website

A new interesting website covers the story of Italian Radio Nova Int. Many offshore & radio enthusiasts will remember Radio Nova, a radio station in Italy, was founded in Spring 1979 by a group of free radio enthusiasts inspired

by the success of the offshore pirates - particularly the first RNI, Radio Northsea International (*not to be confused with Chris Carey's Dublin-based Nova!*). When the passing of Dutch legislation to outlaw offshore radio closed down most of the remaining pirates in the North Sea, and Radio Veronica joined the Hilversum 'club' of licensed broadcasters, the Swiss owners of RNI, Meister and Bollier, considered sailing the MEBO II to the Italian coast to commence broadcasting there under the name of Radio Nova International. The two Swiss people officially told this to journalists. Of course the radio ship was locked up for a longer period in Slikkerveer harbour and in took up till 1977 before the ship could leave Holland for international waters. By then it had a new owner in the person of General Ghadafi of Libya. However, the relaxation of Italian laws on private broadcasting, resulting from an almost anarchic proliferation of land based pirates in that country made the expense and inconvenience of broadcasting from ships at sea rather unnecessary. Meister and Bollier lost interest in the Nova project, but gave their blessing for a group of Dutch, Belgian, German and French investors to use the name. Best known among them is AJ Beirens, others included Ruud Kegel (Danny Thomas >> also ex-ABC Europe SW), Nils van Schijndel, Peter Janssen (Peter Hartwig >> ex-RNI German SW Service), and Richard Adaridi. A lot of others have worked for the station, including Guy Starkey - who did also some stints on the Voice of Peace. Have a look on his historical site on Radio Nova: <[www.guystarkey.com/nova/nova2.htm](http://www.guystarkey.com/nova/nova2.htm)>.

## Return

Another North American AM powerhouse has returned to a 'real' radio format. One of the legendary stations of the Top 40 era was WKBW (1520 kHz) in Buffalo New York. After fooling around with a business news format (all stocks and shares all day -- BORING!) and changing the call to WWKB, the owners had a flash of brilliance and switched back to a retro top 40 all oldies format with a sound that hasn't been heard on US AM radio since the 70s. Its that top 40 sound we all grew up with! (and its ripe for DXing for folks in > Europe!) It has been reported that they are negotiating to get the > old call letters WKBW back. Right now they are ID-ing as KB Radio 1520. Rumours have it that this will be a growing trend in north american radio with many more clear channel 50 kW AM stations returning to what is being called a nostalgia format that basically covers music of the mid 50s to the late 70s -- when Top 40 personality radio was killed.

Perhaps the brains (or lack thereof) in the radio biz have realised finally that sterile scripted sound of their networked programming and lite rock/best variety narrow-casting doesn't work. And -- perhaps the folks at RTL will see the trend and revitalise 208. Hope spring eternal!

## Internetradio via Viddi Radio Player

Internet gives access to thousands of international radio stations. For many people have the opinion it is far too much work to tune in to an Internet Radio station. Lazy? For this category there's an (ultimate?) solution: the *Viddi Radio Player*. Freeware software giving instant access to more than 1250 popular radio stations. The only action is selecting your favourite station in de Radio Player. Searching can be done via countries or music formats. Your most favourite stations can be stored in a personal list of favourites. Info about the artists will be shown via a simple mouse click and you can easily visit the website of the station you're tuned to. With another mouse click you can surf to the <[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)> artists database. Interested? Go to <[www.dedigitalerevolutie.nl/software/viddiradio.htm](http://www.dedigitalerevolutie.nl/software/viddiradio.htm)>.

## Radio Jackie about to return to South West London

Dreams do come true: just ask Tony Collis. 18 years ago he was forced to shut down the much loved pirate radio station Radio Jackie, which had been the pride of South West London for 15 years. A decade later, his hopes of bringing back Radio Jackie as a legal broadcaster were dashed when another applicant was awarded the community radio licence for the area. But earlier this year the Radio Authority gave its consent for Radio Jackie Ltd. to take over financially struggling Thames Radio. Collis has bought the station for the token amount of £1, and has inherited its debts. But more significantly, Radio Jackie is back!

## THE BEGINNINGS

Radio Jackie was arguably the best of the many UK "land based pirates" of the 1970's and early 1980's. These stations had grown up out of frustration at the closure of the offshore broadcasters in 1967, and their replacement with the BBC's Radio 1. Although licensed commercial broadcasting started in London in 1973, the choice of stations was limited, and many young people preferred the sound of the unlicensed stations which more closely resembled the offshore broadcasters. The knowledge that they were not approved by the authorities only added to their appeal. The format of Radio Jackie was top 40 hits mixed with "golden oldies", plus local news and community information.

Radio Jackie started life as a weekly half hour programme on the Helen Network. When that service closed in April 1969, Radio Jackie took over the frequency of 1525kHz, and began broadcasts from its own transmitter. At first, it broadcast from a fixed location, but since it was unlicensed the team decided to start using a mobile transmitter which changed its location each week to



minimise the risk of being raided by the authorities. The power was only 50 watts, but the technical experts on the team always managed to set up a good antenna which made the signal sound much stronger.

#### FM TRANSMISSIONS

The frequency changed several times, but the station settled on 1331kHz, moving to 1332kHz when the new 1978 European frequency plan took effect. FM transmissions were also introduced, with Saturday night transmissions from February 1971 on 94.4 FM. Later Radio Jackie joined in a cooperative venture known as the London Transmitter of Independent Radio, which broadcast four nights a week. Programming was very community-oriented, and during its existence Radio Jackie was able to raise a lot of money for charity. For a time in 1983/84, Radio Jackie was operating 24 hours a day without harassment from the authorities. It could do this because it had discovered a loophole in the Wireless Telegraphy Act. By this time, the station was operating on 1323 or 1332 kHz with a power of 1kW. Several locations in the county of Surrey were used. A Radio Jackie Shop opened in Morden, the studios were in Worcester Park, and the transmitter was in North Cheam. A fourth location in Sutton housed the office of station owner Tony Collis, and a production studio for commercials. Today the name of the station lives on in the form of the cab company Radio Jackie Cars.

#### LOCAL SUPPORT

Radio Jackie was openly listed in the Yellow Pages. There were 18 full time staff, and the local council and Member of Parliament supported the station. A petition in 1983, calling for the station to be given a licence, was signed by over 50,000 people. Independent surveys showed that Radio Jackie had a 28% reach in South West London, making it the number two station in the area. Unfortunately, the law took its course, and late in 1984 the loophole that had allowed it to operate freely was finally plugged. By this time, a lot of other unlicensed stations had started operating in London, and the licenced broadcasters were seriously concerned about loss of listeners and advertising revenue. Radio Jackie, being the most popular and high profile, of the unlicensed stations, was a prime target. When it was finally raided, it was decided to close down for good. Radio Jackie made its last broadcast on 4 February 1985.

#### LICENCE APPLICATION

However, in 1996, the opportunity arose to apply for a new FM community licence for South West London on 107.8 MHz. Radio Jackie's application set out a very detailed programme plan with a high degree of community service content. However, possibly because the Radio Authority didn't want to be seen as rewarding illegal broadcasting, the licence was awarded to another applicant - Thames Radio. So it looked as if Radio Jackie would become simply a piece of British broadcasting history.

In 2000, self-declared "anorak" Geoff Rogers began putting together an ambitious Radio Jackie memorial site. Geoff said at the time "I can't believe that no one has yet set up a site which brings together all the various memories, stories, legends, photographs and sounds that made up one the best known (or possibly even the best known!) land-based pirate radio station in the world.

#### REBIRTH

But the subsequent misfortunes of Thames Radio have turned out to be an opportunity for Radio Jackie to prove the 1996 licence decision wrong. The station is currently running an automated service while it reorganises, but is expected to relaunch as Radio Jackie very soon. Some of the original Radio Jackie presenters, who like me are now the wrong side of 50, are expected to be involved with the station. The media environment has changed greatly since the halcyon days when it had a 28% reach, but it will surely be able to dramatically improve on the tiny 0.2% audience share of Thames Radio. A lot of people in South West London and beyond will be wishing Radio Jackie well as it embarks on its new journey. The Radio Jackie Web site can found via <[www.radiojackie.com](http://www.radiojackie.com)>.

Contrary to the report on Media Network dated 20 June, the station on 107.8 FM in South-West London is still identifying itself as "Thames 107.8". They are playing continuous music, and although reception was quite decent in the Wembley Park area on Saturday morning, come Sunday things were somewhat more difficult, owing to those naughty pirates. If only we could get shot of them once and for all ... (by Andy Sennitt, 20 June 2003)

#### Website [Carolinecentral.com](http://Carolinecentral.com) closed

Visiting the above website ended up with the following message: "It is with regret that I have to announce that Caroline Central has now closed. We reached the end of our initial one year technology and hosting contract at the end of April and decided at this point not to continue. The costs involved in running a site such as this have increased considerably and while we always expected to have to subsidize its operation we did not anticipate that it would be to such a level. On a personal note, we have also had less and less time for involvement in the site and that would have only got worse in the coming months. However, it is not all bad news. I am pleased to announce that following successful discussions we have agreed to hand on the community

and site directory to a new owner. Although not specific to Radio Caroline their new site, [Anorak Nation](http://Anorak Nation), hopefully keeps some of the spirit alive." Surf to <[www.anoraknation.com](http://www.anoraknation.com)> and you will discover this is a very interesting site for any radio enthusiast.

#### Internet

- ❑ For some unique photo's from the Alan Beech archive on Radio Scotland, surf to <[www.qsl.net/m1eyp/offshore.htm](http://www.qsl.net/m1eyp/offshore.htm)>.
- ❑ Some original people from Veronica's days make another site I want you to have a look on. Two important people should have a mention in the report: Ad Bouman and Juul Geleick, who both worked as a technician on the station. They've saved a lot of material from those days and have including technicians Juul worked a long time to make an archive of this. Although the story is in Dutch it is worth well to watch at <[www.norderney.nl](http://www.norderney.nl)>.
- ❑ If you are an offshore radio enthusiast, surf to <[www.offshore-radio.de/fleet/](http://www.offshore-radio.de/fleet/)> and find out about all radio ships which have been used in the past. A more than interesting site!!
- ❑ Radio Geronimo is a kind of mysterious station that broadcasted for a brief period in the 1970s. If you want to know more about this station, then check <[www.radiogeronomo.co.uk](http://www.radiogeronomo.co.uk)>. It's a kind of tribute site and apart from Geronimo, there's also a lot of interesting Radio Seagull stuff to be read.

#### Amateur Radio comes to 60 metre band

In a development which seems to have gone largely unnoticed by shortwave listeners, radio amateurs in the US are about to start using several frequencies just above the 60 metre band. At midnight local time on 3 July 2003, it will become legal for certain classes of US radio amateurs to operate on channels centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz. The last channel is common to the UK amateur 5 MHz experimental band plan. The channelised format is the result of a compromise between the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA), which administers spectrum occupied by US government users - the band's primary occupants - and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The channels will be available to General and higher class licensees. The FCC will allow up to 50 watts effective radiated power (ERP) on all five channels. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association representing US radio amateurs, says the 5 MHz channels might provide the best propagation in the event of a Caribbean storm or other disaster, when stations need to establish longer-range HF emergency communications links. Until now, emergency nets often have had to switch between 40 metres during the day and 75 metres at night. More information on the topic can be found on the ARRL Web site. © Radio Netherlands Media Network.

#### Radio Free America

His daily broadcasts were heard over 600 stations until the early 1970s when the stations ran afoul of the FCC's fairness doctrine. Many do remember Dr. McIntire as the man of the Offshore Radio Station Radio Free America, a radio station that broadcast briefly over 1160 kHz from a former mine sweeper off the New Jersey coast. It went on the air on September 12 1973 with test transmissions, from the MV Columbus. The ship was in international waters, off the New Jersey coast. Complaints were brought in by radio station WHLW that Radio Free America was making interference with their signal. But that were not the first troubles RFA got. In a storm the anchor chain broke and they had to go into harbor again. Official transmissions started on September 19th. The next day a federal judge issued an order restraining that the station could not make any broadcast again until October 1st. Then the authorities came with an old law, from 1934. In this it is forbidden to make transmissions from airplanes and ships, which are registered in the USA. Carl McIntire had made the big mistake not to buy a foreign flag and so this little piece of radio history ended.

#### Johan Maasbach Wereld Zendingen

A 'miracle city' is the idea of the JMWZ, the Johan Maasbach Wereld Zendingen. This religious company, headed by two brothers, plans a very big centre for all religions of the world in The Hague. Next to a big church they want to build a congress building, a prayer hall as well as other buildings. The JMWZ is already 50 years in Dutch the Hague and was formerly headed by Johan Maasbach. He transmitted his daily radio programs on more than 160 different radio stations around the world, including offshore radio stations like RNI, Radio Caroline and Radio Monique. In the early nineties Johan died and the company was taken over by the family. For some people, within the Offshore Scene, Maasbach was the man from: 'Put your hand on the radio, I'll will pray for you and you sent me all your money'. We don't know what they want with the name 'Miracle city', we can all guess.

#### The Summer 2003 edition of Broadcasts in English

And now something about a new book, which were released during the last weeks. First the book: The Summer 2003 edition of Broadcasts in English is now available from the British DX Club. It was compiled by Alan Pennington and includes details of all currently known international broadcasts in English



on short wave and medium wave for the Summer A03 schedule period. It is in time order throughout and covers all target areas. Transmitter sites are listed where known. A comprehensive guide to DX and Media Programmes is also included plus schedules for WorldSpace and World Radio Network for Europe. Copies are available at the following prices (postage included): United Kingdom - 2 pounds sterling, Europe- 5 International Reply Coupons; 5 Euros or 4 US Dollars, Rest of the World- 6 International Reply Coupons or 5 US Dollars. UK cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to British DX Club. Payments in Dollars/Euros are only accepted in cash. All orders/ enquiries to: British DX Club, 126 Bargery Road, Catford, London SE6 2LR, UK.

### Made in Holland

In the following extended Made in Holland column a day-to-day report from the exciting happenings in the Dutch media landscape starting on....

#### Monday May 26th

Monday May 26th was the day on which the Dutch Ministry of OC&W government announced which Dutch stations obtained an FM or AM package for the next 8 years. After years of political uncertainty, the distribution of commercial FM radio frequencies was finalised on Monday, with prominent stations Noordzee FM, Radio 538 and Sky Radio winning licenses to remain on the airwaves. An end on a period of several years of discussions, problem, doubts and no decisions! Many Dutch commercial stations felt very uncomfortable because it took much too long until it was decided the commercial terrestrial frequency packages would be sold by auction. In the past editions of the FRS Newsletter, we covered the developments regarding the Dutch media situation frequently. It all started a few years ago when the responsible Dutch authorities decided that the available *commercial* FM frequencies had to be revised. Investigation resulted in a so-called Zerobase plan (the re-engineering of the FM network) creating a great number of new FM frequencies becoming available for commercial radio stations. And: twice as much potential coverage for regional commercial stations would be created. Apart from the existing commercial FM packages, an extra number of new ones were created. Important: the Dutch government tried to cash in and decided that the existing radio stations had to make financial bids to secure and continue their future on either FM or AM. In addition they had to present a business plan. For the majority of commercial stations, a terrestrial FM package with (nearly) nation-wide coverage was the only serious option. FM is in commercial respect much more attractive compared with AM. Continuing only on cable without terrestrial FM freqs could be the end of any popular station. For that reason the most popular Dutch commercial stations such as Radio 538, Sky Radio, Radio 10 FM and Radio Noordzee offered substantial amounts of money to secure the most powerful of the 9 FM packages. To avoid any confusion: the Dutch national radio stations Radio 1, 2, 3, & 4 (on FM) and former Radio 5, nowadays using the name 747AM, have a protected status and had no involvement with the auction of FM frequency packages. The only alteration is that any Dutch station on FM is *not* allowed to be on AM as well. For that reason the powerful 400 kW 1008 AM was included in the auction: so far that frequency was used by national news station Radio 1 but because of already having a nation-wide FM package, Radio 1 was forced to give up its 1008 kHz AM outlet.

Before the auction Sky Radio, Radio 538, Yorin FM, Radio 10 FM and Noordzee FM were using the most interesting commercial terrestrial FM packages. In addition, Radio 10 FM used the strong 120,000 Watts 675 AM outlet. Arrow Classic Rock was to be heard on 828 kHz (25 kW), Radio 192 on 1332 kHz (5 kW) and Business News on 1395 kHz (120 kW).

This situation changed in the final week of May when the "winners" of the auction were announced. Up till that moment all stations were broadcasting with temporary licenses issued in the late 1990s. Mind you: the auction was not only meant for existing commercial stations but for new initiatives as well! An independent commission judged all applies for terrestrial freqs from both existing and new radio stations. There were two categories: some of the FM frequency packages were unclased meaning that stations are fully in charge of deciding which format they put out. The second category, the profile category means that broadcasters must fulfil a specified profile, such as a news, alternative pop, Dutch music or classic music. Business News Radio was awarded a frequency under the news broadcast category, while dance music broadcaster ID&T also won a profile as did RTL FM.

Remarkable: Noordzee FM offered no less than 80 miljoen euro (!!) for the 100.7 FM package being used by the most popular Dutch radio station Sky Radio. Radio 538 obtained the FM frequencies being used by Noordzee FM, while Sky had to move to Radio 538's frequencies! Strange but true...

Radio 10 FM, one of the first Dutch commercial radio stations, dealt a heavy bang. No FM frequency and of course no AM: the station had put its money on

FM and not AM. No FM, goodbye 675 kHz. Another (new) oldies station pilfered a nation-wide FM package right under Radio 10FM's nose. Main reason: the new station "de Gouwe Ouwe Zender" (Golden Oldies station) guaranteed in its business plan a greater percentage of golden oldies than Radio 10 FM. Although Radio10 FM offered more money.... De Gouwe Ouwe Zender (Radio 103) is a "new" station under the umbrella of the Sky Radio organisation. Although, not entirely new. Many years ago there was already a Gouwe Ouwe Zender financed by the Sky Radio Group. During the short period it was on the air, it appeared to be an unsuccessful attempt.

Other losers: Radio Nationaal owned by Ruud Hendriks (known as Rob Hudson on Radio Caroline in the late 70s), Arrow Classic Rock (owned by former Veronica/ R.N.I. jock Joost den Draaijer) and Radio 192 (having strong ties with the former offshore radio station Radio Veronica).

Below a complete overview of the radio stations which obtained a commercial terrestrial broadcasting license taking effect Sunday June 1st 2003: first is the description of the (A) FM / (B) AM packages, between brackets the format\*, next the name of the new owner followed by the financial bid (in euros).

\* Some packages are unclased which means they may put out any format. No regulations whatsoever in contrast with the other stations which have to meet certain requirements (specified in the business plans approved by the authorities).

#### FM frequencies with (almost) nationwide coverage

A01 (unclased)	Sky Radio (€ 56.025.000)
A02 (oldies)	Gouwe Ouwe Zender (€ 33.600.000)
A03 (unclased):	Noordzee FM (€ 80.400.000)
A04 (news):	Business News Radio (€ 1.320.000)
A05 (alternative)	ID&T Radio (€ 2.500.336)
A06 (unclased):	Radio 538 (€ 57.000.001)
A07 (unclased):	Yorin FM (€ 32.892.000)
A08 (classical):	Not yet allocated
A09 (Euro/ Dutch-language)	RTL FM (€ 22.936.000)

Brandnew stations are de Gouwe Ouwe Zender (Sky Radio organisation, ID & T Radio (dance) and RTL FM (Holland Media Group).

#### AM frequencies

Between brackets the AM frequency and the tentative names of the stations which could commence trms in future.

C01 (1008)	Radlon Media (Radio London)
C02 (675)	Music Country
C03 (1395)	Quality Radio (Liberty Radio)
C04 (828)	Quality Radio (Radio Tropico)
C05 (1224)	Quality Radio (???)
C06 (891)	Radio 538 **
C07 (1332):	Not yet allocated
C08 (1035)	Quality Radio (Radio Paradys)
C09 (1584)	Quality Radio (1584 AM)
C10 (1602)	Not yet allocated
C11 (1485)	Not yet allocated
C12 (1557)	Quality Radio (Laser 1557 ?)

■ Radio 538 has a low-powered AM outlet in the south-east of the Netherlands to compensate for the non FM coverage in that part of the country. Location is Hulsberg in the south of Limburg stuck between the Belgian and German border. The 891 AM tx has a power of 20 kW. It serves a part of the country where Radio 538 has no FM coverage. The frequency was given to Radio 538 in the frequency awards announced on 26 May.

■ The allocation of commercial AM/FM freqs means a yield of no less than € 323 million (!!) for the authorities.

■ One important participant in this Dutch radio soap is the Nozema, which is now a private company running and controlling FM and AM txs in the Netherlands. Once it was a state-owned company. The Nozema said it has already suffered financially because of the delay in carrying out the frequency auction. At one point they were even talking of taking legal action against the government because Nozema was spending a lot of money on the "zerobase" project without any clear indication of when they would be able to start signing contracts with new licence holders.

BTW, just to be clear, there are *two* transmitter operators in the Netherlands. Apart from the Nozema, there is Broadcast Partners b.v. Nozema has the lion's share of the market, as it does all the engineering for the public broadcasters, but Broadcast Partners currently have five major commercial stations as clients.

■ A total of 26 regional commercial FM freqs were issued. Among "the lucky ones" two former famous Dutch radio pirates of the 1980s: Keizerstad Radio (Nijmegen; was already on air with a license) and De Hague-based Hofstad Radio which has been fighting for a license for a long time. Hofstad Radio was a very popular station in the early 80s and famous for using the so-called Harry's: 1 kW Rohde & Schwarz FM txs.



Very interesting is the news that the license for the 1008 kHz transmitter (400 kW!), has been secured by Essex based Radlon Media Limited. It's Ray Anderson and his friends who want to bring back the sound of Radio London. With this powerful transmitter they want to target the station at 20 million people in the UK. Now they're very busy looking for investors and staff. The frequency is one of only a few high-power International frequencies available - 1008 kHz with a transmitter power of 400 kilowatts. Managing Director of Radlon Media Limited - Ray Anderson, said: "We are delighted in being awarded this frequency, it is the culmination of over 12 months work. This will now enable us to proceed with our plans to re-launch the former pirate radio station - RADIO LONDON - BIG L and other programming formats". The footprint from this transmitter should cover a population of 20 million people in the South East and East of Great Britain as well as much of The Netherlands and Belgium. Anderson added: "We will be interested in hearing from Airtime Sales personnel, Deejays and Investing partners who can assist us so we can quickly bring this station back on-air and make it a tremendous success". Radlon Media Limited, P.O.Box 7336, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 0WZ in the UK. Email: <[bigl@everything.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:bigl@everything.fsbusiness.co.uk)>. In addition: there will be technical changes at the Flevo site, whereby they will use a single mast on 1008 instead of the directional pattern that was used for the public broadcasters, and probably with higher power.

There are a lot of regional AM licences which have been allocated to several organisations. One of them is *Quality Radio*, a company from Utrecht run by Ruud Poeze. Some years ago he worked very closely together with Bob Noakes (Dutch Caroline project 1584 AM) but due to a big dispute they broke with each other. Poeze joined up with British people who are interested in making radio in England, see the next press report: "In association with our Dutch partners, Laser Radio Limited has successfully applied for broadcasting licences in the Netherlands. With our Dutch partner Quality Radio, we have won the following AM broadcasting frequencies: 828 kHz, 1035 kHz, 1224 kHz, 1395 kHz and 1557 kHz." Andrew Yeates, Managing Director of Laser Radio Limited added: "This is a tremendous result and shows the strength of our applications and future plans for AM broadcasting. We have some exciting programming planned, which will transform AM listening across the Benelux and surrounding markets." Managing Director of Quality Radio, Ruud Poeze, was equally delighted with the result and was looking forward to building a strong radio brand in the Netherlands. The broadcasting licences will be valid for an eight year period. Laser Radio Ltd, 2 Herontje House East Grinstead West Sussex RH19 4QX. Tel : 01342 327 842/ Fax : 01342 327 842. E-mail: <[laser@ukmail.com](mailto:laser@ukmail.com)>. Director: Andrew Yeates.

Interesting to know is that also Radio Caroline had submitted a bid for an AM frequency. Caroline was interested in the 25 kW 828 AM tx and there was only one rival: Quality Radio BV. The financial bid made by Quality Radio was higher and that was it...

#### **Dutch Stations missing the boat** (existing ones and newcomers):

1. Radio 192
2. UDC
3. Style FM Dance Radio (Amsterdam)
4. Humor FM
5. Radio Nationaal
6. Radio 10 FM
7. Classic FM
8. Arrow Classic Rock
9. Nederlandse Radio Groep (meerdere aanvragen, o.a. Colorful Radio)
10. Radio 227
11. Colorful
12. Haagstad Radio
13. Happy Radio

#### **Reactions after the decision:**

Sky Radio led by Ton Lathouwers (he once was for a brief stint on the Mi Amigo) was very happy with the outcome. Sky Radio was issued the most powerful of the total of 9 FM packages. It was a very nice surprise the station was also issued a licensed to operate the new Gouwe Ouwe Zender.

Talpa Radio Int. is the owner of both Noordzee FM and Radio 10 FM. Two former offshore deejays are in charge of TRI: Erik de Zwart (Paul de Wit on Caroline in the late 80s and later Erik de Zwart on the legal Radio Veronica on land) and John de Mol jr. (R.N.I.; his father was managing-director of the Dutch R.N.I. in the early 1970s). Erik de Zwart declared that the outcome could be disastrous for Radio 10 FM: "obtaining no frequency could lead to the end of the station and could result in the dismissal of 35 employees. The station is on the verge of disaster. Without FM frequency and with so many rivalling stations having obtained FM frequencies, Radio 10 is in a very nasty situation. We will look for possible co-operations with others to secure Radio 10s continuity." Talpa Radio International considers legal action against the governmental decision.

Remarkable: Radio 227 is an initiative of former Radio 227 deejay Look Bode. Radio 227 was heard for a brief period on 227 metres AM in 1967 following the closure of Swinging Radio England. The station was broadcasting from the Laissez Faire, owned by an American consortium, also housing Britain Radio. Look Bode is disappointed but is willing to make use of cable networks, satellite & Internet for future programme activities. Also DAB (Digital Audio BRoadcasting) is a serious future option. And: in the upcoming years some extra AM licenses are for sale, Radio 227 wants to go for one of them too. A studio is already in working order waiting for some serious activity.

Ruud Hendriks, owner of DistriNed BV, owning Radio Nationaal: "We all are very disappointed that after years of great uncertainty Radio Nationaal hasn't got the chance to start FM broadcasts. The days of the station are numbered. Without FM outlets the station is commercially not viable." The station started May 5th 2000. June 1st the trms via Dutch cable networks came to an end. It was in the Summer of 2001 that Radio Nationaal commenced AM trms on 1296 kHz renting a BBC tx located in Offordness in the UK. That project ended in 2002, eversince Radio Nationaal continued on cable only hoping for an FM license.

The Holland Media Group is more than delighted with the two FM packages: Yorin FM may continue on 103.8 FM and as an extra surprise they beat Radio Nationaal also opting for the Dutch language music FM package. As a result RTL FM is one of the brandnew stations which started with non-stop music June 1st. In the not to distant future the new station will put out a mix of music, news & entertainment. RTL FM opts for an official start September 1st. Salient detail: it was Ruud Hendriks who was one of the keyfigures behind RTL Rock, the station which was founded in the early 90s. In those days he was working for RTL which is nowadays part of the HMG Group.

Radio 538s Lex Harding- the famous former Veronica jock- was surprised that the 102 FM package of Noordzee FM is allocated to Radio 538. Radio 538s bid to obtain the 101.2 package was better than the one made by Sky Radio.

Radio 192 is very disappointed. May 23rd the bad news about not getting a terrestrial frequency reached the station. As a result Radio 192 has become a cable-only station (at least: for the time being). According to a spokesman the station is seriously looking at a number of possibilities to co-operate with Sky Radio or RTL FM. But all depends on the financial consequences. Another option is returning on AM via a foreign AM outlet. Lucky enough they've a 90%+ cable coverage within the Netherlands.

Arrow Classic Rock will start a legal procedure against the Dutch authorities (just like Radio 10 FM). The rock station thinks it is not fair that its apply for obtaining an FM license has been rejected. According to managing-director and shareholder Ad Ossendrijver the independent commission didn't look careful enough at the contents of the station's business plan. Arrow hopes to obtain the A08 FM package originally meant for a commercial classical station.

#### **Wednesday May 28th**

Reports make mention of a possible rescue action for popular Radio 10 FM. The oldest Dutch commercial radio station could be taken over by Sky Radio. When this happens, Radio 10 FM may continue under its own name. Sky's Martin Banga says that the negotiations haven't been concluded yet.

Other news this day is that Arrow Classic Rock will be using 675 kHz AM for the time being. The station which obtained 675- *Country Music Radio*- will commence trms in a few months' time. Before that time the necessary preparations have to be made. Lopik-based 675 is certainly more powerful than Heinekensoords 828. The advantage of the 828 outlet is its digital modulation which is louder than the 675 mod. Salient detail: Country Music Radio FM is using the same address as Arrow Classic Rock...Well, we will reveal a little secret: The Arrow and CMR owners are the same. One of the nicest comments on internet, after Arrow came on the air on 675 was: "Arrow couldn't have started at a better time. I tuned into UK Caroline at 10.00 hours to hear one of their good and reliable presenters Pat Edison and there is some crap Japanese live music on, or did I hear this is cultural music. Sorry, but I'm glad I have two frequencies to listen to Arrow on. Yes Arrow is still going out on 828, as well as 675. If they broadcast the left channel on 675 and right channel on 828, I could use two radios to get stereo, then it would be better than Caroline!" It must be added that the owner of the 675 frequency has to start with his own (country) format within 3 months after going on the air. Perhaps Arrow Classic Rock will stay on 675 putting out some more Country Rock in the format ??

#### **Saturday May 31st**

That evening Radio 10 FMs programme-director Tom Mulder (formerly Klaas Vaak on Radio Veronica offshore) announces that the station will be continuing on FM. The AM 675 will expire but the station will continue via a total of 19 FM txs. Radio 10 FM will take over de Gouwe Ouwe Zender's place. Ton Lathouwers, Sky Radio's managing-director: "I'm happy that we



reached an agreement so fast. Together with all Radio 10 FM employees and Sky Radio's experience we will be working very hard to make Radio 10 FM the best Dutch oldies station. Nothing will change for the listener and that's very important." In the days following Monday May 26th, no less than 125,000 listeners expressed their sympathy towards the station!

#### Sunday June 1st

At midnight the new frequencies take effect. Radio 192 is still on 192 (illegally?), Arrow Classic Rock is now using the powerful former Radio 10 FM 675 outlet. A loop message can be heard on 828 kHz explaining the situation to the listeners. Radio 10 FM is to be heard via the FM freqs allocated to the Gouwe Ouwe Zender/ Radio 103. All major FM stations are now on new freqs.

#### Wednesday June 4th

##### *Future of Veronica still hangs in balance*

The board of Dutch commercial broadcaster Veronica have still not reached a firm decision on the future of the 40-year-old organisation. It was widely expected that a meeting on Tuesday evening would result in a decision to merge with public broadcaster BNN, an option favoured by the interim management of Veronica. However, a spokesperson said the board had decided to allow another three weeks for all possible options to be considered before making a decision.

The television side of Veronica is in dire straits. It has to share a TV channel with MTV networks, its programming isn't popular, and some cable systems want to ditch it. MTV has had enough, and wants to end the partnership. Veronica has also been talking with rival commercial broadcaster SBS. According to an SBS spokesperson, one scenario under discussion is the setting up of a new company called Veronica8. The existing SBS channel V8 was so-named in anticipation of a previous deal with Veronica that never got off the ground. This option is not favoured by the staff of Veronica magazine, the largest radio and TV guide in The Netherlands and the only bit of the company that still makes money. They would prefer a deal with BNN. It has been suggested that under a deal with SBS the magazine could become a separate company.

#### Thursday June 5th

Radio 10 FM has left its terrestrial FM freqs. In the night of wednesday into thursday, Sky Radio pulled the plug out. Radio 10 FM was shocked and dazed at the same time. It was an unexpected action done without any consultation.

Radio 10's programme-director Tom Mulder: "*I was shocked. I was driving in my car and discovered that several freqs were switched off. You don't expect something like this in the Netherlands.*" In an effort to gain public support, Radio 10 FM has hung a banner outside its Amsterdam studios asking people to log on to its Web site. The situation has generated huge interest in countries surrounding The Netherlands. Radio 10 FM was widely listened to on its former mediumwave channel of 675 kHz, and is still broadcasting on the Astra satellite at 19.2 degrees east as well as on cable in The Netherlands. Suddenly Sky and 10 FM are flatly opposed to each other. Further talks will be taking place to find a solution but in the mean time Sky talks to Arrow, Radio Nationaal, Radio 192 and...Veronica. Sky's action is caused when it appeared that Talpa Radio Int. (owning Radio 10 FM) by means of one of its directors- John de Mol- will be challenging the authorities' decision not to issue Radio 10 an FM license. In case Radio 10 FM will succeed, they will obtain Sky's Gouwe Ouwe Zender FM frequencies. For Ton Lathouwers that is *adding fuel to the flames*. De Mol also declares that Sky won't be able to run an oldies station. Lathouwers: "*The government issued us a license because they are convinced that we are very well able to run an oldies station.*" Lathouwers adds that Sky is seriously looking for co-operating with Veronica. The brand Veronica is more interesting than Radio 10. By the way: de Gouwe Ouwe Zender has replaced Radio 10 FM on the terrestrial FM frequencies....

#### Friday June 6th

Radio 10 said on Friday afternoon that it has received an estimated 200,000 messages of support. Various local broadcasters and pirate stations have offered to relay its output. Radio 10 has placed a large clock in its studio that reads "Radio 10 FM already off the airwaves for x days x hours x minutes". The staff of Radio 10 say they're sitting and waiting for news of the negotiations between their parent company Talpa and Sky Radio. In the meantime, information is coming to light which could explain why Talpa wanted to go to court over its failure to get a licence, despite being offered a lifeline by Sky Radio. Today's edition of the Dutch newspaper de Volkskrant reveals that when John de Mol bought Radio 10 FM from its previous owners for 18 million euro, there was a clause in the contract that said he would get 7 million euro back if the station failed to win a licence. Taking the matter to court would demonstrate that he done everything possible to get one. It has also emerged that Sky Radio has been approached by all the main losers in the recent licence awards: Arrow Classic Rock, Radio Nationaal, Radio 192, and Veronica. Insiders say that Sky Radio

#### Saturday June 7th

##### *Radio 10 back on AM: 1395 kHz will be daytime only*

Since Saturday morning 06.00 hours June 7th Radio10 FM is to be heard on AM 1395. Talpa, the parent company, has signed a contract with Quality Radio BV, the company owned by Ruud Poeze. Quality Radio and Talpa first tried to have the 1008 kHz AM outlet available for Radio 10 FM. Although Radlon Media gave permission, it was the Nozema running and controlling the major part of all Dutch AM & FM txs, refused to co-operate. Main reason is that 1008 kHz would be used for only one month. 1395 kHz AM was used by Business News Radio. Talpa and Quality have agreed that there is an option to extend the rent period. Radio 10 FM uses 1395 only during daytime. In the evening hours 1395 is already occupied by a powerful 1000 kW Albanian transmitter carrying religious Trans World Radio pxs. Some listeners have noted that the audio quality on 1395 kHz is not as good as it was on 675 kHz. On 675 they used a digital audio processor that boosted the higher frequencies. This is clearly not the case, currently at least, on 1395 kHz. It's this sort of processor that Radio 538 is waiting to have installed at Hulsberg before it starts using 891 kHz.

#### Tuesday June 10th

##### *Radio 10 FM to court on June 25th*

Erik de Zwart, Director of Talpa which owns Dutch commercial station Radio 10 FM, has revealed the new date for the court case against the Ministry of Economic Affairs. It will take place in Rotterdam on 25 June. De Zwart says the Ministry has not given an adequate explanation for its decision not to award a new licence to the station, which is now without any terrestrial FM frequencies.

Meanwhile the station that now occupies the frequencies, Sky's Radio 103, de Gouwe Ouwe Zender, has got off to a low key start with no presenters and a playlist consisting of subset of the tracks played on Sky Radio itself. Sky admits it's in talks with a number of Dutch media companies, including Veronica, so the present format is unlikely to last for long.

A special Web site has been set up to act as a support site for Radio 10 FM's efforts to secure terrestrial frequencies. The station is temporarily broadcasting on mediumwave 1395 kHz. The site is not officially endorsed by Radio 10 FM management, but a number of its employees have indicated their approval of the initiative.

#### Thursday June 12th

##### *Radio 538 begins mediumwave broadcasts*

Dutch commercial broadcaster Radio 538 has begun mediumwave transmissions from the Hulsberg transmitter in the south of The Netherlands. The transmitter, on 891 kHz, has a power of 20 kW. It serves a part of the country where Radio 538 has no FM coverage. The frequency was given to Radio 538 in the frequency awards announced on 26 May.

#### Friday June 13th

##### *Radio 538 to press case for classical channel*

Dutch commercial broadcaster Radio 538 has informed the Dutch government that it intends to press the case for the awarding of a licence to run a popular classical music station in the commercial sector. Although a package of frequencies has been reserved for a classical station, no licence was awarded for the eight year period that started on 1 June because of a clause in the legislation stipulating that no broadcaster could have more than two national stations. Sky Radio, which had been running classic FM, was awarded the golden oldies licence ahead of Radio 10 FM, and chose to accept that licence at the expense of Classic FM. The other applicants for the classical licence similarly fell foul of the rules. Classic FM had a market share of 3%, and Radio 538 believes that it can run such a station economically.

#### Wednesday June 18th

##### *The soap opera continues...*

News from The Hague is that the Dutch government has officially informed the lower house of Parliament that a second batch of commercial radio licences will be awarded, hopefully in the autumn. There are seven packages, for which there were no suitable or qualified applicants the first time round. One is a national FM licence, and there are three regional FM and three regional AM licences. The national FM licence is for either a jazz or classical music station, while the others have no programming conditions attached. Anyone can apply for these licences, both unsuccessful applicants from the first round and any newcomers who fancy their chances.

It doesn't look as if the announcement has much significance for Radio 10 FM, which goes to court next week over the award of the national golden oldies licence to rival Sky Radio. However, in the event that the court overturned that decision, and said Radio 10 could have its frequencies back, Sky Radio would then have the option of re-applying for the classical licence. Because *no company is allowed to have more than two national licences*, Classic FM was sacrificed for the golden oldies station Radio 103. A lot of people here would



be delighted if that were to be the outcome. Meanwhile, Radio 538 has announced its intention to apply for the classical licence.

Radio 10 can, of course, apply for the various regional AM and FM licences. That would be better than nothing, and given the strength of support they've had since losing out to Sky Radio, they'd be successful in getting at least one, if not more. In theory, you could cobble together a quasi-national network by putting together several of these regional franchises.

One option that definitely seems off the agenda is hiring the British mediumwave transmitter at Orfordness on 1296 kHz, as Radio Nationaal did last year. We're awaiting confirmation, but it's almost certain that this transmitter will be doing regular daytime DRM transmissions of BBC World Service starting next week. This week, they're on the air in the evenings to demonstrate the service to delegates at the Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva. Reception in Hilversum was superb on Monday evening (June 16th), encoded at 30.9 kbps. It's amazing to hear what sounds like an FM signal coming out of an NRD-525 (or any other communications receiver)!!

### **Wednesday June 25th**

#### *Commercial stations demand their own FM frequencies*

Five commercial radiostations institute proceedings against the Dutch authorities. They ask for a new procedure demanding that the nation-wide FM frequencies will be re-distributed as they think the special Committee representing the Dutch government has not made the good decision. The case went for many hours. Radio 10 FM, Radio Nationaal, Arrow Classic Rock, 100 NL and NRG all missed the boat May 26th. Radio 10 FM, owned by John de Mol's Talpa, is the most prominent loser. The station is the longest-serving Dutch commercial radio station being on air for already 15 years. Radio 10 lost its position in favour of Sky's Gouwe Ouwe Zender. Absolute wrong according to Radio 10's legal adviser. When it comes to putting an oldies station on air, Sky Radio is absolutely unexperienced without any knowledge. July 3rd a decision will be taken.

### **Friday June 27th**

#### *Veronica decides its future lies with SBS and Sky Radio*

Dutch commercial broadcaster Veronica has agreed to merge all its activities with SBS Broadcasting bv, which runs the commercial TV channels SBS 6, NET 5 and V8. From 1 September 2003, V8 will be re-branded as Veronica 8. At the same time, Veronica has reached agreement with Sky Radio over the re-branding of the Gouwe Ouwe Zender Radio 103, the oldies station, as Radio Veronica 103 FM. This will create a formidable opponent for Radio 10 FM as it awaits a court decision on 3 July which could decide its future. Radio 10 FM believes it, and not Sky Radio, should have been awarded the oldies licence. Should Radio 10's plea be unsuccessful, the station will then have to rely on cable distribution and any terrestrial frequencies it can get by doing deals with other licence holders. The option of hiring the UK transmitter at Orfordness on 1296 kHz is no longer available, as that frequency is now being used for DRM transmissions of BBC World Service.

### **Tuesday July 1st**

#### *Radio Nationaal closes down*

Today Radio Nationaal closed down its broadcasts via the Dutch cable networks. Cable networks operators have tried to contact station-owner Ruud Hendriks but didn't succeed. Radio Nationaal's studio is being rebuilt in De Hague to be used by Hofstad Radio FM.

### **Wednesday July 2nd**

It is said that British Laser Radio soon will start trms to the greater Amsterdam area. Frequency is 1557 AM (via Ruud Poeze's Quality Radio).

### **Thursday July 3rd**

A judge in Rotterdam has rejected an appeal by the unsuccessful bidders for terrestrial commercial radio frequencies in The Netherlands. The highest profile loser, Radio 10 FM, says it will continue broadcasting on mediumwave 1395 AM (0400-1800 UTC), and via cable, Internet and the Astra satellite. But the station, which has the third largest market share of the Dutch commercial broadcasters, concedes on its Web site that "uncertainty continues" over its long term future. However, the station has decided not to give a detailed reaction until the judge gives detailed reasons for his decision to reject the appeal. That explanation is due some time next week. A spokeswoman would merely say that "it's too early to speculate over the future of the station." Next week or maybe later the judge will go into detail about which bidders fall out for good or (maybe all) which ones have another change. And no, Nationaal was not looking for a buyer. Nationaal had long talks with 192 about a cooperation. Ruud Hendriks is one of the richest people, so with a partner they would go for a frequency owned maybe by Quality Radio or others who got one. No doubt the biggest loser is Radio 10 FM. To sum up, the following can be said: the decision of Talpa Radio, owners of Dutch commercial oldies station Radio 10 FM, to pursue their court case against the government despite having been given a lifeline by Sky Radio, was a very bad one. The case was all about Radio 10 FM's failure to secure a terrestrial broadcasting licence for

the next eight years, despite being the number three commercial station with a market share of around 7% and a reach of 2 million listeners. On the face of it, that decision was bizarre. But not as bizarre as the one that its owners Talpa Radio made. The successful applicant, Sky Radio, was happy to talk to Radio 10 and a deal was agreed whereby Sky would take over the entire station, make a few adjustments to the format and playlist, but otherwise leave it intact. Incredibly, only a few days later, Talpa Radio announced that it was *still going to court* because it believed it, and not Sky Radio, should have been awarded the licence. But that wasn't all. The principle plank of the argument was going to be that *Sky did not have the knowledge or experience to run an oldies station*. Talk about biting the hand that feeds you! Sky Radio boss Tom Lathouwers was so angry that he pulled the plug on the Radio 10 transmissions and launched his own station. So what now? So where does this leave Radio 10? In the short term, they can continue to operate on mediumwave in daytime, as long as Quality Radio agrees. But the crunch will come when the next listening figures are released: if they don't show a sudden drop in Radio 10's market share. And once Veronica 103 FM starts, with the advantage of almost national FM coverage, they'll have formidable competition.

In the autumn, a second round of licence allocations will take place, mostly involving regional mediumwave and FM packages, but including a national FM channel. However, there is a clause attached to the latter, which stipulates that the licensee has to provide either a classical music or jazz service. Radio 538 has already expressed interest in running a classical station. There doesn't seem to be anything left for Radio 10. Dutch broadcasting is full of surprises and it looks as if Talpa Radio blew its best chance of keeping the Radio 10 brand alive when it decided to pursue its legal case. It has now lost not only the case, but also a great deal of the sympathy it had gained in the immediate aftermath of the licence announcements on May 23rd....

### **Friday July 4th**

#### *Radio 192 saved from closing down*

Radio 192, one of the Dutch stations with no terrestrial frequency since early June, is being saved from an almost certain inevitable close down. The station will continue celebrating its 2nd anniversary. It's for sure that the transmissions via Dutch cable networks will continue. In addition Radio 192 will be seriously deliberating about the possibility of recommencing trms via a terrestrial frequency. An option is AM but the station is also looking for regional FM frequencies which haven't been allocated yet. The station's management (Michael Bakker en Ad Bouman) reached an agreement with a number of Dutch backers Thursday evening July 3rd. A perfect timing because the day after the station celebrated its 2nd anniversary. Using the slogan '2 Years Gold on your radio', the weekend of Fri July 4th, Sat July 5th & Sun July 6th the station paid attention to its young but also roaring history so far. No less than 17 specials were aired including the Rolling Stones, The Beatles, The Hollies, The Beach Boys, Cliff Richard, Motown, The Bee Gees, CCR, ABBA, Queen, Merseybeat, Golden Earring and Stevie Wonder. One of the great achievements is that Radio 192 did succeed in getting a nation-wide coverage via cable networks in a very short period. Sun afternoon special guests the Trammps were invited in the Radio 192 studios.

#### *Radio Nationaal resumes broadcasts*

After a short period of silence (three days), Radio Nationaal has resumed its trms via the Dutch cable networks. Non-stop music is to be heard but for how long??

### **Tuesday July 8th**

#### *Radio 103 takes over Radio Nationaal's cable frequencies*

As from July 10th Sky Radio will be taking over Radio Nationaal's cable frequencies. Sky Radio will use these freqs to give de Gouwe Ouwe Zender 103 nation-wide coverage. As from August 31st De Gouwe Ouwe Zender will become Radio Veronica 103FM. Recently Sky Radio became owner of DistriNed BV. As a result it also owns all cable frequencies used by Radio Nationaal.

#### *Ferry Maat: exit Radio 10 FM*

After just over two months, Ferry Maat is leaving Radio 10 FM already. A reason is not given but it looks like this has something to do with Radio 10 FM's failure to obtain a terrestrial FM package.

#### *Radio Paradijs on 1584*

Dutch Radio Paradijs should commence trms on 1584 for the Greater Utrecht area starting July 24th. Radio Paradijs is one of the stations founded by Ruud Poeze. A few years ago Paradijs had a short-lived life on 1584. The 1 kW tx is situated in Utrecht-Oost. Several freqs were allocated to Ruud Poeze's Quality Radio organisation (see Made in Holland). A potted history: since May 5th 1999 tests are to be heard on 1584 AM under the name Radio Caroline. The freq is from Radio Goolland (alter Okay FM, Radio 192) offering it for use to Ruud Poeze. April 2000 the name is changed into 1584AM-The Bells. June 1st 2000 a start is made from the Utrecht location playing a format of Jammin' Oldies. September 2000 another name change: new name is Radio Paradijs putting out presented pxs from Oct. 2000 onwards. December 2000 the



organisation discussion arose between the Radio Paradijs organisation and Radio Okay (Radio 192), the latter preferred to use 1584 itself. Since Febr. 2001 1584 AM is silent although there has been some testing using names such as Radio Paradijs and Laser Hot Hits.

### Monday July 14th

Asking Ray Anderson how things are going with the new radio station that should come on the air after getting a licence for the 1008 kHz, he replies: 'We are still working on the backing, but the project is looking very good and we are hopeful of getting the station on the air by the Autumn. So it seems looking good for the people at the project. So have some patience!'

### Tuesday July 15th

Ray Anderson announced a 1008 kHz test on Thursday July 17th. This test is carried out to study the aerial patterns resulting in a better fine tuning for future broadcasts. Some time next autumn could see the commencement of regular Radio London trms.

### Wednesday July 16th

Five of the main presenters have been announced for Dutch oldies station Radio Veronica 103 FM, which officially launches on 31 August 2003. Bart van Leeuwen, Ferry Maat, Kas van Iersel, Rob van Someren & Peter Teekamp. These names were revealed today the Veronica organisation as the new presenters of Veronica FM 103 starting August 31st. The line-up is headed by veteran DJ Ferry Maat, who abruptly left Radio 10 FM a couple of weeks ago (declaring his sudden departure after only 2 months>>see July 8th). Also moving across from Radio 10 are Bart van Leeuwen and Peter Teekamp (who also presented the weekly Top 40 on Radio 192 earlier this year). Two other names announced today are Kas van Iersel (Yorin FM which took over from Veronica FM a few years ago) and Rob van Someren (ex-TROS Radio 3 FM). Unco Cerfontaine, currently station manager at Radio 538, will assume the same position at Radio Veronica. The station will "soft launch" without presenters on August 1st, playing music from the 80's and 90's. The official opening on August 31st will mark the 29th anniversary of Veronica's closure as an offshore station. Sky radio's General Managing-Director Ton Lathouwers: "Radio Veronica has always played an important role in the Dutch radio world. Our goal is crystal-clear: Radio Veronica must come to live regaining its former major position. I'm convinced we will succeed with the knowledge and experience of the new team. Rob van Someren used to work for TROS Radio 3 FM and Peter Teekamp He then joined Radio 10 FM but leaves the station after a mere 6 weeks. Via the Gouwe Ouwe Zender (= Radio 103) terrestrial frequencies and cable networks coverage, the new Radio Veronica will commence broadcasts very soon."

### Sunday July 20th

Just before this magazine was printed, the following (interesting) news reached us: PRESS RELEASE 002-> Embargoed until 12.01 - 20th July 2003 RADIO LONDON TEST BROADCAST

Radio London will conduct further engineering tests at 12.00 (UK Time) on 22nd July, 2003 for approximately two hours on 1008 kHz from the Flevoland transmitting site in the Netherlands. The transmitter will be operated at 400 kilowatts with 95% peak modulation using an Optimod 9200 processing. This will enable our engineers to ascertain coverage in the UK. The current aerial pattern produces a figure eight pattern pointing NE - SW and our study will enable us to work on

plans to alter the antenna pattern to produce a better signal into our target areas. Radlon Media Limited would welcome reception reports from anywhere in Europe. We are mainly interested in reports from listeners using standard domestic equipment, i.e. Hi-fi units, portable radio's and car radio's rather than full sinpo reports using communications equipment and long wire aerials. Please either post them to the address at the top of this press release or e-mail them to <[bigl@radiofab.com](mailto:bigl@radiofab.com)>. All reports will be acknowledged.

### PROGRESS REPORT

We have received an enormous amount of correspondence, mainly by E-mail, many questions have been asked, and at your request, we are happy to give the following progress report:

### FUND RAISING

Our fund raising has been rather slow. This time of year many people are away on vacation and we have lost a few weeks because of this. However, response has been very encouraging, despite what are difficult times for the radio industry. We now need to start closing deals and this is what our team are currently focusing on. Opportunities to invest in this project are still available with investments starting at £10,000. Anyone interested should contact us ASAP.

### ENGINEERING

On Thursday 17th July, 2003, our engineers made a full appraisal of the transmitter site at Flevoland on the Netherlands. The site also transmits the Dutch public broadcaster Radio 1 on 747 kHz so any changes that we may wish to make have to be compatible with their requirements. From our findings we can now evaluate the aerial patterns and work on commissioning a full

report on the antenna and recommend changes. We also evaluated the suitability of the AEG Telefunken 600 kilowatt transmitter, which is 20 years old and may not be capable of producing positive peak modulations now used by many commercial broadcasters in Europe. So we need to await the full report in order to make our final deliberations. The tests next Tuesday will also give our backers an indication of our signal strength, when engineering adjustments are made at a later date, our engineers are confident that a further 6dB of signal will reach the UK. It is also our plan to broadcast in AM stereo (although not on our current tests) and we will watch the progress of DRM, which looks set to revolutionize the AM dial.

### PROGRAMMING

The Radio London & Big L brands will be used to launch our Gold format. Much in attitude has changed since Radio London last attracted a significant audience and the station sound needs to be tuned to current market trends. Commercially, it is important to attract and please an audience, of hopefully 1 or 2 million listeners and not a minority group, so emphasis will be on the music and presenters whilst retaining some of the magic and fun that the original station produced.

### WEBSITE

There is no official Radio London website at the moment, although we are working on this at the moment. In order to avoid confusion, please ensure that all correspondence regarding the re-launch of Radio London is addressed to the contact phone numbers, fax and E-mail in this press release. For further comment or clarification please ring Ray Anderson 01255 676252 or Fax: 01255 850528. E-mail: <[bigl@radiofab.com](mailto:bigl@radiofab.com)>.

### Monday July 21st

#### Radlon Media testing 1008 kHz

A test transmission from Flevo on 1008 kHz was observed today as of 0900 UTC this morning. The transmission ended abruptly at 0925 UTC. Officially, the next test is scheduled for Tuesday 22 July at 11.00 UTC in preparation for the transmissions of commercial broadcaster Radlon Media, which plans to broadcast to the UK. The test will be made using the directional pattern previously used for Dutch public network Radio 1, but will be made at the full power of 400 kW (Radio 1 used 180 kW). A low power test was already conducted on Friday afternoon, according to radio.nl. Listen to the test.

### Radio 538 increases market share

The Dutch radio listening figures for May/June 2003 were published today by the research bureau Intomart. This is an odd period, as the new licences took effect on 1 June, so we'll have to wait another two months to see how the re-allocation of terrestrial frequencies has really affected the market shares of the various stations. But Radio 538 is certainly satisfied: it saw its share rise to 11.5% compared to 10.7% for March/April. Sky Radio remains the market leader, but saw its share fall slightly from 13.4% to 13%. Nordzee FM also gained, up from 5.2% to 5.7%. Observers here note that Nordzee FM is using the old frequencies of Sky Radio, which could account for the gain, and the almost identical drop in the figure for Sky Radio. Radio 10 FM saw a slight fall in share from 7.1 to 6.9%, having lost its terrestrial FM frequencies half way through the period. The full effect of this loss will become apparent in the next figures for July/August due at the end of September. These will, for the first time, include new entrants ID-T Radio, RTL FM and Radio Veronica 103 FM. The listening figures in full for the May/June are to be found via <[www.radio.nl](http://www.radio.nl)>.

### Other Dutch Media News

Two well-known former offshore jocks have joined oldies station Radio 10 FM. Popular Ferry Maat who joined Radio 192 late 2002, is the new presenter of the daily (weekdays) prime time 16.00-19.00 hour slot. Former Veronica and Mi Amigo jock Bart van Leeuwen (he also used the name Tim Ridder on Mi Amigo) who became unemployed after Dutch Radio National fired all presenting staff last year, is now doing the daily 10.00-13.00 slot. Other former offshore jocks on 10 FM are programme-director Tom Mulder (Klaas Vaak on Veronica), Peter Hopland (R.N.I.) and Jos van Heerden (Nici Steevens on Monique). Bart van Leeuwen & Ferry Maat presented their debut shows on Radio 10 FM May 1st.

## FRS SPECIALE FEATURE: DIGITAL RADIO MONDIALE

In the recent past we already covered the subject of DRM. June 16th saw the official introduction of DRM. In the following article an update about the future of AM radio....

There have never been as many radio stations as now! People are listening more hours per week to radio than ever before! Audio distribution has never been more important. But the audience is also becoming more critical. The arrival of affordable CD-players, MP-3 portables, the home theatre experience of the Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) as well as audio via the Internet, means



audiences come to better audio and perfect reception. Traditional broadcasting on long-, medium-, and shortwave (in other words below 30 MHz on the dial) is challenged. For the moment, although it can travel vast distances, the signal sounds *muffled* and often un-even by the time it comes out of the receiver. In short, AM needs to sound better to survive. Fortunately an international consortium of engineers have been working since 1998 on making AM radio sound like FM! They have cherry-picked some of the proven technologies associated with the Internet and added a great deal of original research of their own.

The World Radio Network (WRN), the London-based international broadcaster and transmission service provider, has joined the Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) Consortium. DRM comprises broadcasters, network operators, manufacturers and researchers who have created a digital system (also called DRM) for the broadcasting bands below 30 MHz. DRM is the world's only non-proprietary, digital system for short-wave, medium-wave and long-wave with the ability to use existing frequencies and bandwidth across the globe. WRN's participation brings DRM's membership to a record high of 81 members from 30 countries. Karl Miosga, WRN's Managing Director said: "World Radio Network is delighted to be playing an active part in DRM which represents a combination of digital innovation and close cooperation between broadcasters around the world - two of the founding principles behind WRN. We have been a long-time proponents of the distribution of international, cross-border radio by innovative and sustainable digital platforms, be that the Internet, digital satellite, digital cable or mobile cell phone services in order to reach new listeners around the world. To this list we add DRM because we believe it is going to offer listeners increased choice in radio listening combined with digital audio quality."

Monday June 16th 2003 a date to remember in AM radio history. That day the official launch of regular DRM transmissions took place in Geneva, Switzerland, home of the International Telecommunications Agency. Over the years not much has happened to AM technology. Sure the transmission and receiving equipment has developed, but at the end of the day it is still analogue and still suffers from noise and interference. Well that is likely to change with the official inaugural broadcasts of DRM International, national and local broadcasters simultaneously sent the world's first live, daily Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) broadcasts toward Geneva, and across the globe, on Monday evening (16/06). The event was celebrated in Geneva's Château de Penthéz with representatives of all 80 broadcast members attending. With the flick of a switch, DRM Chairman Peter Senger marked DRM's début at the glittering evening reception.

Broadcasts were made by International broadcasters BBC World Service, Christian Vision, Deutsche Welle, Radio Canada International, Radio France Internationale, Radio Netherlands, Radio Vaticana, Swedish Radio International, Voice of America, Voice of Russia and Wales Radio International. Their DRM broadcasts reaching Europe, North America, the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand. Within Europe, national broadcasters DeutschlandRadio and Radio France, plus local station Georg-Simon-Ohm-Fachhochschule in Nuremberg, also showcased DRM broadcasts on medium-wave/AM.

Mr. Senger says: "DRM's introduction will forever alter the course of radio broadcasting. The fading, noise and interference that have hampered analogue broadcasting for decades will be replaced by DRM's excellent reception quality. DRM will create exciting new opportunities for broadcasters to expand their audiences and increase time spent listening."

Coding Technologies GmbH has announced that production of a second-generation, DRM-capable, world band receiver is underway, for distribution in late 2003. Further commercial DRM-capable receivers should become available in stores within two to three years. WRC delegates have also had the opportunity to hear live, DRM test transmissions in listening sessions at the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) early June and live, daily DRM broadcasts commenced on Tuesday 17th June. If you are interested in hearing DRM, you may have to wait a couple of years before radio sets are available to the public. Retrofit radios are available for those who can not wait.

### And what about receiving DRM?

#### Introducing a breakthrough

WinRADiO has released the WinRADiO G303i, which it says is the first commercially available radio that can receive DRM with no hardware modifications. WinRadio says: "Just when you thought that there is nothing in shortwave that can surprise you anymore, here comes the new WinRADiO G303i shortwave receiver. This new low-cost receiver (intended for experimenting and hobby use) continues in the fine tradition established by WinRADiO's successful range of wide-band PC-based receivers. The 'G3' stands for 'the third generation': As the original, award-winning, first-generation WR-1000i receiver was the world's first commercially available wide-band receiver on a PC card when launched years ago, the newly introduced WR-G303i is the world's first dedicated shortwave receiver

on a PC (PCI bus) card. It is also the first commercially available receiver where the entire final intermediate frequency stage and an all-mode demodulator are entirely executed in software, running on a personal computer. The WinRADiO G303i: A ground-breaking shortwave receiver that will surely amaze you." Surf to <[www.winradio.com](http://www.winradio.com)> for more info.

### DRM Consumer Receiver

The world-band consumer receiver, developed by Coding Technologies together with the BBC and German device manufacturer AFG, is based on a modular system design made up around standard components. It is a production-ready OEM receiver sample integrated in the case of a commercially available Sangean multi-band radio receiver. The DRM system also uses aacPlus™ by Coding Technologies as the standard audio coding format. aacPlus is a combination of MPEG AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) with Coding Technologies' groundbreaking SBR™ (Spectral Band Replication) bandwidth extension algorithm. It's based on a DSP board, so all the decoding is done in the radio itself. One other interesting thing worth mentioning is that it has two front ends (one tuned to frequency A while the other front end scans for the best frequency B) which allows for AFS (Automatic Frequency Switching). The price of this unit has not yet been decided.

### DRM Software

\* The DRM Software Radio application is now available via the DRM™ Software Radio Web site. It's a 12 Mb download and costs 60 euro. Technical requirements are given on the site. Technical documentation is currently online for DRM modifications to the following receivers:

ICOM IC756 (English & German), Kenwood R1000 (English), Grundig Yacht Boy 400 (English & Spanish), JRC NRD 525 (English), Yaesu FRG-100 (English - MS Word document), AKD Target HF3 (English), AOR 7030 (German) & Sony ICF-SW77 (English).

Except where stated, these documents are high-res and low-res PDF files. More documents will be added as they are published.

### DRM Software Radio Project

The DRM Software Radio, designed for private use, is a downscaled version of an existing, professional Fraunhofer receiver. Its features include: audio MPEG-4 AAC +SBR decoding, multimedia reception, selection of service and the possibility to log the reception quality (which can later be sent back to DRM). Its audio decoding library has been provided by Coding Technologies. Radio enthusiasts may register their interest in the Software Radio Project at a special Web site now under construction at [www.drmrx.org](http://www.drmrx.org). This project is being co-ordinated by VT Merlin Communications Ltd. When the project officially launches in December, the Web site will be set up to support and distribute the software for a 2-year period, and to analyse received DRM transmissions. It will also contain a discussion forum, worked examples of receiver modifications, an analysis section, and general information about the project. A number of screen shots, such as the one below, are already on the site. Participants must meet the following technical criteria: Operating system: Windows 2000, Windows XP, or Windows 98. An AT-compatible PC with 500 MHz Intel Pentium processor (or equivalent), 64 MB RAM, 50 MB free disk space, 16-bit SoundBlaster (or compatible) soundcard that supports full duplex at 48 kHz sampling rate for input and output; the input must be without AGC (Automatic Gain Control); for example: Creative SoundBlaster Live! or "USB One" USB audio interface. Notebook soundcards are not always compatible, and a compatibility list will be published. A front-end receiver is also required, an AOR7030 or another receiver which can be modified. The modification is the addition of an extra circuit board to produce an extra Intermediate Frequency (IF) of 12kHz. Several companies already sell these conversion boards. Participants will need a receiver with a 12kHz IF, because this frequency is within the range of PC soundcards. Many radio receivers have an IF of 455kHz, so the extra circuit board mixes this down to the soundcard range. The PC soundcard is used to analyse the DRM signal.

### Radio Netherlands begins DRM transmissions from Flevo

Since early June, Radio Netherlands is broadcasting its first regular digital shortwave service. The broadcast, at 0930-1225 UTC on 9590 kHz, carries our English service and is beamed from Flevo towards Geneva, where Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) was officially launched. For more information on how to receive this, and other DRM transmissions, check out the dossier "A Listener's Guide to Digital AM" at the RNW website <[www.rnw.nl/realradio/html/drm.html](http://www.rnw.nl/realradio/html/drm.html)>. Part of the info is also a complete up-to-date schedule of DRM broadcasts. The RNW digital transmissions are running alongside their regular analogue services.

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